

Ministers move to support Jopling over farm deal

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A government operation to mobilize support for the embattled Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, whose assent to the European Community price-fixing agreement has received with outrage by the farming community and hostility by many Conservative MPs, began last night.

Mr Jopling, who in agreeing to a deal to restrict EEC milk production was carrying out the wishes of the Prime Minister to overhaul Community spending, was given full backing by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who said that the nervousness of farmers was misplaced and that the real threat to their interests would have come from failure to reform the common agricultural policy (CAP).

If the monster of the CAP had been allowed to continue untrammelled for a few more years new ways of raising money with which to feed it would have had to be found and all of them would have been more unpopular with the farmers than the present proposals, Mr Tebbit said.

Mr Tebbit's support, given in a speech to the Bow Group, undoubtedly marked Mrs Margaret Thatcher's approval for the deal Mr Jopling brought home from Brussels and her acceptance that a short-term price will have to be paid for the achievement of a long-term reform of the Community finances.

The government view is that the agricultural agreement can only have improved the prospects of success when the negotiations, stalled last month

Hume will not back Gillick over Pill action

By Clifford Longley and Nicholas Timmins

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has told Mrs Victoria Gillick that he cannot support her court action to establish the right of parents to be consulted before under-aged girls are prescribed contraceptives, including the pill.

The Cardinal's decision will be welcomed by the British Medical Association, which strongly opposed Mrs Gillick's action and had been feeling increasingly isolated as her campaign gathered pace.

Mrs Gillick, a Roman Catholic from Wisbeck, Cambridgeshire, had asked the Cardinal for backing. Her action is likely to come before the Court of Appeal in the next few weeks. He has asked the Department of Social Responsibility of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to prepare a definitive statement on the issues raised.

The indications yesterday were that the statement would uphold the importance of the confidential relationship between doctors and their patients even when the patient concerned is under 16, and will point to the difficulty of drawing a line at 16. Rates of emotional development vary, it is expected to point out.

It is also likely to question the desirability of attempting to enforce a church's moral teaching by court action in a pluralistic society, and to suggest that there may be circumstances in which it would be a bad principle to insist that parents have an absolute right to veto the treatment a child may need.

But those points are not elaborated in a letter from the cardinal to Mrs Gillick, which states that "the particular issue which you have brought before the courts has, however, as many have recognized, wider implications for the role of law, medical practice, and social welfare in a pluralistic society".

He expresses his approval of her desire to uphold moral standards in general, and expresses his own concern about developments which undermine values necessary to stable family life.

Few Conservative MPs have publicly supported the BMA's attitude, some doctors have threatened to resign from it, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher has let her support of Mrs Gillick be known.

Many Conservative MPs expect her to find time for a parliamentary debate to force a change in the Department of Health, and Social Security's guidance on the issue after the Court of Appeal hearing.

Tight security for royal visit

Tight security surrounded the Duke and Duchess of Kent yesterday during a 24-hour visit to Northern Ireland.

While the Duke visited a lifeboat station at Donaghadee, co Down, and then toured military bases, the Duchess went to an electronics factory in Coleraine before lunching at the Northern Ireland Hotel and Catering College in Portrush, co Antrim. In the afternoon she opened a flats complex.

O'Toole returns

Peter O'Toole is to return to the West End stage next month as Professor Higgins in a new production of Shaw's *Pygmalion* at the Shaftesbury Theatre. The first preview is on May 10.

The miners' dispute

Locomotion may reject blacking

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday detected a growing reluctance among Nottinghamshire train drivers to obey their union leaders' order to halt the movement of coal.

Locomotives at the key Toton depot, which handles much of the bulk coal traffic to electricity generating stations in the east Midlands, are understood to be rebelling against industrial action.

Coal board sources reported that train drivers have told local leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers that they will ignore "blacking" instructions issued by their union. Aslef, and the National Union of Railwaymen, unless Nottinghamshire miners join in the "rolling strike" now nearly four weeks old.

Their ultimatum came on the eve of a coalfield delegate

'Riot police' condemned by staff union

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The use of "riot police" in industrial disputes is condemned in a report prepared for a union which represents 10,000 staff employed by the police.

The document, prepared for the annual conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, says: "Whatever the rights and wrongs of mass picketing, it is a disturbing and dangerous development for the community. The use of riot police to be unleashed on trade unionists during an industrial dispute, far from encouraging peaceful picketing, such behaviour is

likely to make violence endemic on picket lines during this sort of dispute."

The report was prepared before the miners' strike and the unprecedented police operation that has attended it. When the document goes before delegates in June, the union executive will almost certainly be asked to demand an investigation into the use of police against "flying pickets".

The paper Government Activities Against Trade Unions, went before last year's conference, but was referred back to the executive for



Commission for equality: Women's Royal Army Corps Cadets marching alongside male officer cadets yesterday in a rehearsal for tomorrow's Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, when they will receive commissions together for the first time (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Plans to save 'power cathedral' go on show

By Hugh Clayton

Battersea power station, one of the most prominent landmarks on the south bank of the Thames in London, may be demolished unless a use is found for it in a competition now under way. The station's 48 years of work as a "cathedral of power" ended six months ago, and it now stands a half-empty shell next to the main line into Victoria Station.

The Central Electricity Generating Board made clear yesterday that the station's only chance of survival was through redevelopment for recreational purposes unconnected with the generation of electricity.

The building with its four

337ft chimneys cannot be demolished because it is officially listed as a Grade Two historic structure. "We were not consulted on the listing," Mr Geoffrey Stone, director-general of the board's south-east region, said yesterday. "We would have been happier if it had not been listed."

He was speaking before the opening of Battersea of a public exhibition of seven redevelopment schemes accepted for a competition run for the board by Taylor Woodrow Construction. The company is not competing.

All entries are anonymous, but have been submitted by

teams of architects, developers, engineers, and planners. The board said that ideas from local people had been "fed in" to the entrants. The winner will be allowed to buy the redundant station for at least £1.5m.

Judging will be done by a panel chaired by Lord Ezra, former chairman of the National Coal Board.

The competition has the ingredients that have prolonged and embittered planning proceedings over other large developments by the river in London, including Coin Street and Vauxhall Cross.

"If there is a nil result from this competition it will have been reasonably demonstrated

that there is no commercially viable use for this building. The board would then apply for it to be taken off the official historic buildings list. It would then sell the 15 acre site on the understanding that the buyer could demolish the station.

One of the entrants in the competition proposes using the station for a theatre with a stage complex fit to accommodate a Busby Berkeley - scale show. Another says it needs more than 200 luxury flats to survive commercially, while another wants to fill it with "some of the most advanced leisure technology in the world".

RCs review Jesus TV series

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

A Committee of Roman Catholic theologians met at the request of Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, yesterday to consider the proposed Channel 4 television series, *Jesus: The Evidence*, after complaints that it was offensive.

They are expected today to make a statement similar to yesterday's Methodist Church statement supporting the showing of the series while questioning its approach.

Neither the Methodists nor the Roman Catholics have disapproved of the passage said to suggest the Jesus was homosexual.

Some evangelical groups have already protested about that passage to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The three-part programme, made by London Weekend Television, will be followed by a discussion. The main emphasis is on unorthodox interpretations of Jesus.

The Rev David Bridge, a Methodist who is also Free Church religious adviser to London Weekend, said the series concentrated on "eccentric scholars" and neglected the leading authorities, who took an orthodox position.

Thatcher 'was right to clout Whitehall'

From Peter Hennessy, Southampton

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was right to "clout" the Civil Service, it had "got above its station", the annual conference of the Political Studies Association at Southampton was told yesterday by Dr Geoffrey Fry, senior lecturer in politics at Leeds University.

Dr Fry said: "That the Thatcher Government saw the higher Civil Service as a potential opponent was not an unreasonable position as some observers chose to portray it."

In attempting to steer ministers towards the "common ground" of Keynesianism, senior civil servants were not engaged in a politically neutral activity. The common ground had shifted towards Conservatism and "sound money", as election results demonstrated.

Dr Fry was sceptical about the success of the Government's financial management initiative in changing Whitehall culture. "The Civil Service has little choice about wearing the currently fashionable clothes, but much the same bodies remain underneath", he said.

General support for Mrs Thatcher's efficiency strategy was expressed by Mr Spencer Ziffak, a senior Australian civil servant on secondment to the London School of Economics.

But he added: "How long the Government can continue to belittle the public sector by comparison to the private sector and at the same time expect both efficiency and morale to improve is a matter of conjecture."

Dinner ladies take pay issue to court

By Michael Horsnell

Nearly 10,000 school dinner ladies who are threatened with dismissal or a pay cut of up to 25 per cent challenged the rights of three education authorities to end their contracts when a High Court judicial review opened yesterday.

The hearing is being fought on their behalf by the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) in a case at Chelmsford Crown Court expected to last at least a week.

The dinner ladies are from Birmingham, Hertfordshire, and East Sussex. Their colleagues from other Conservative-controlled authorities may also be affected. Several authorities, keen to cut their school meals budget, are treating the hearing as a test case.

Nupe claims that the local authorities are altering the terms of the national agreement

drawn up by the National Joint Council for Local Authority Services.

Yesterday the union was to have sought an injunction restraining Hertfordshire County Council from implementing its plan to reduce the pay of 2,500 women by up to 17 per cent.

But Mr John McDonald, QC, for Nupe, told the hearing that an April 6 deadline set by the authority for staff to accept new conditions had been withdrawn and an extension agreed.

A judicial review of Hertfordshire's actions will follow the review, which started yesterday, of Birmingham City Council's plan to impose inferior conditions on more than 5,000 women.

The review, by Mr Justice Mann, will deal next week with the actions of the third authority involved, East Sussex.

Saleroom

High-priced Old Masters fail to find buyers

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's expected two big prices in yesterday's sale of Old Master paintings but neither picture found a buyer.

A "Virgin and Child with Saints Dorothy and Ursula" was catalogued as by Vittore Carpaccio but was left unsold at £180,000 (unpublished estimate £300,000 to £400,000).

Carpaccio is one of the great Renaissance painters of Venice and any painting unquestionably from his hand would be a rarity.

While Sotheby's had written opinions from four Italian art historians attesting to Carpaccio's authorship, the trade appears to have voted it a dull picture, more likely to have been by an artist in Carpaccio's circle than Carpaccio himself.

The other failure was an "Adoration of the Magi" by Jan de Beer, an Antwerp mannerist of the early sixteenth century, to whom several fine paintings are attributed. It was left unsold at £85,000 (unpublished estimate £100,000).

The sale's successes came among the attractive Dutch paintings in good condition. A "Still Life of Fruit and Flowers" by Jan van Huysum went for £112,200 (estimate £60,000 to £80,000) to H. Fritz-Denneville, a London dealer.

A "Still Life of Fruit and Nuts" by Georg Flegel also exceeded expectation at £60,500 (estimate £35,000 to £45,000).

Among the landscapes, "The Frozen River Maas" by Merwede Castle" made £63,800 (estimate £40,000 to £60,000). Lord Howe sold it from his family collection at Christie's in 1976 for £11,000.

Pitoni's "Allegory of Winter and Summer" made £52,800 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000) and Fra Galgario's "Portrait of a Young Boy with a Glass" made £14,300 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000).

The sale totalled £1.3m, with 32 per cent unsold.

At Christie's prices for eighteenth-century volumes of printed music soared, with the New York dealers Wuritzer and Bruck carrying off most of the prizes.

They paid £756 (estimate £50 to £80) for William Duncombe's *First Book of Progressive Lessons for the Harpsichord and Piano Forte*, published around 1785 and six other volumes of miscellaneous music.

However, another group of eighteenth-century music for the violin and other stringed instruments went to the same dealers at £65 (estimate £50 to £80). The reason for intense competition on some lots remained obscure.

Musical instruments also attracted strong bidding with a particular premium being paid for condition.

Computing for jobless

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The first of a new type of computer training school for the unemployed is to be opened in June in Hammersmith, west London.

The London computer and Electronics School will train 120 computer programmers, operators and technicians in its first year. The £1m project is jointly funded by the BOC company, the Manpower Services Commission, the Department of

Trade and Industry and Hammersmith borough council.

The company, which runs 20 similar schools in the United States training 10,000 people a year, hopes to give jobs to more than 75 per cent of those leaving the school.

National Semiconductors of the US, one of the world's leading microchip manufacturers, is set up a 150-job plant in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Dockers in Scotland black coal

Scottish dockers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday decided to black the handling of coal at all ports, including Hunterston on the Clyde coast, which supplies coal to the British Steel Corporation plant at Ravenscraig.

Mr James Gilligan, Scottish docks group secretary, said afterwards that he did not want the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the transport union "at each other's throats", and would ask for a meeting with the steelworkers as soon as possible.

Shop stewards from Ravenscraig had appealed to the Scottish TUC to support their demand for increased coal supplies to keep the plant in operation.

Ravenscraig is thought to have enough coal stocks for another 10 days' normal production. The steelworkers fear that their three-year campaign supported by the National Union of Mineworkers, to retain Ravenscraig could be lost if production is allowed to drop.

Full production for several more weeks at the Port Talbot steel plant was assured yesterday when more than 300 picketing miners, six of whom were arrested, failed to prevent the unloading of 60,000 tons of foreign coal.

Coal imports through Exmouth and Teignmouth docks in Devon have been halted by miners' pickets from south Wales.



Met police's top woman

Chief Supt Jennifer Hilton (right), who is set to become the highest ranking officer in the Metropolitan Police, working in her office at Scotland Yard yesterday. Miss Hilton, aged 48, has been selected for promotion to commander.

She works in the traffic department and has served with the Metropolitan force for 27 years. Only one woman will outrank her in England and Wales, Miss Alison Halford, assistant chief constable with Merseyside Police.



Mrs Harris celebrating her success.

Wine woman on song

Mrs Claudia Harris, aged 40, from Devon, has achieved one of the wine profession's highest accolades and became the first female master sommelier.

Owner of the Moorwood restaurant near Luffleigh, on Dartmoor, she passed the Master Sommelier's Diploma examination at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay to join 40

successful candidates out of the 200 who have taken the examination over the past 15 years.

Mrs Harris, who was sommelier of the year in 1981, has run the restaurant with her husband Michael for the past 13 years. She stocks 50 wines all in the middle price range, "I like to explore wines from the lesser known regions", she said.

Press must 'adapt or die'

Britain's national newspapers could disappear unless they adapt to new technology, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Information Technology, said yesterday.

"Modernize or fossilize", he told members of the Newspaper Society, which represents regional newspaper employers.

At the very worst, if newspapers do not adopt the new technologies they will simply and slowly disappear, just as the

dinosaurs disappeared into the alluvial slime."

Mr Baker told a Newspaper Society luncheon in London that he was pleased that many regional newspapers had introduced new technology. "Fleet Street has remained embedded in another age."

Many people feared that new technology would destroy jobs, he said. "This revolution, of which you are a part, will create jobs

Russian journalist coy about Scargill 'class war interview'

By Richard Dowden

The Russian journalist whose purported interview with Mr Arthur Scargill was disclosed yesterday that he had directly interviewed Mr Scargill. Mr Vissarion Sinyov, the London correspondent of *Trud* (Labour), the Moscow trade union paper, said at his flat in Maida Vale, London yesterday that he could say nothing until he had spoken to his editor.

"But I want to put the record straight in one respect," he said. "In the publication *Trud* nothing is said about class war - it only mentions class interests."

Although the words "class war" do not appear in the text of the article, the headlines on page two of *Trud* read: "The miners will not give up" and "At the front of the class struggle".

Reports of the article came back to London from Western correspondents in Moscow who wrote that Arthur Scargill had stated that the pit strike had unleashed a class war against the British ruling class.

The National Union of Mineworkers said on Tuesday that the reports were untrue and that the alleged interview never took place, although "the journal informed Mr Scargill

Trud: "The workers see and know that businessmen, stockbrokers, and the big press proprietors easily spend more on a bottle of wine than an old age pensioner gets to live on for a week. Figuratively speaking, this is the barrel of social gunpowder which has been exploded by miners' anger."

that it would be reproducing extracts from an article written by him for *Trud* paper."

Most of the *Trud* interview bears a striking resemblance to an article written by Mr Scargill for the *Morning Star*, which appeared on March 28.

Yesterday Mr Sinyov, a senior journalist of more than 30 years' experience, would not discuss how he had obtained the purported interview, but when asked about the similarities with the *Morning Star* article he said: "Scargill says exactly about class interest, oppression and everything else on the back page of the *Morning Star*. Everything is there."

A senior editor of *Trud* said in Moscow yesterday that he had been trying to reach Mr Sinyov by telephone all day without success. Asked why his London correspondent had filed an interview which Mr Scargill said had never taken place, the

Morning Star: "At a basic level they see businessmen, stockbrokers, Fleet Street editors, and other worthies of society spend more on a bottle of wine than a pensioner has to survive on for a week. In essence that's the social powder keg in which the present miners' industrial explosion has taken place."

Trud editor replied: "That is what we would like to know as well."

Tuesday's article said: "Arthur Scargill, President of the NUM, answers questions by the London Correspondent of *Trud*, V. Sinyov". There are four questions and answers. Mr Sinyov confirmed that he had produced his report in the form of an interview and said that while the paper could edit it, "the main things, the political formulations" would not be changed.

Mr Sinyov disappeared yesterday morning from his London flat in Maida Vale, which also serves as an office. But at lunchtime he drove up to the back door of the block of flats. When stopped by journalists, he said: "I hope you won't be offended but I cannot say anything. In other circumstances I would invite you in for a drink as fellow journalists."



Saying little: Mr Sinyov outside his London flat yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Errors in maths computer programs

By Lucy Hodges, Education correspondent

Serious mistakes have been discovered in some of the mathematics programs made for computer use in primary schools by the government-sponsored microelectronics education programme.

The deficiencies identified by the Mathematical Association have been found in four mathematics programs in the Micro Primer pack issued to the thousands of primary schools which have bought a micro under the Department of Trade and Industry's micros in schools scheme.

Mr Brian Hughes, chairman of a Mathematical Association committee set up to look at the new software, said that the program called *What Shape?* was wrong logically as well as mathematically. It did not distinguish between a square and a rhombus and required children to write down, incorrectly, that a shape having four equal sides was a square.

Other programs containing serious deficiencies were *Gates*, *Vennman*, and *Vennkids*. Mr Richard Fothergill, director of the education programme, which is based in Newcastle Upon Tyne, said that the comments should be taken seriously.

"We are going to get the authors of the programs together with the people from the Mathematical Association and see if we can reach a consensus about what is wrong."

A total of 19,000 out of 27,000 primary schools have applied for micros under the Department of Trade and Industry's pound-for-pound matching scheme and they will have received or be about to receive the Micro Primer pack. It contains 31 programs and was made at a cost of £100,000.

A further eight programs in the pack should be used by teachers with care if pupils were not to be given incorrect mathematical ideas, the Mathematical Association said.

The Jessop trial Two cleared of gold conspiracy charges

Mr Keith Jessop, the deep sea diver, was cleared yesterday of dishonestly masterminding the recovery in 1981 of gold worth £45m from HMS Edinburgh.

After a two-week trial at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Jessop, aged 52, and Mr John Jackson, aged 37, an official of the Salvage Association, were acquitted of conspiring to defraud two rival firms for the contract. They were arrested in August, 1982.

Mr Jessop, from Uley, West Yorkshire, and Mr Jackson, from Huntingdon, Cambridge, a former merchant seaman who had worked for the Salvage Association since 1941, were cleared last week by Judge Tudor Price, the Common Sergeant, of five charges under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act relating to the alleged "leaking" of classified documents.

The judge awarded both men costs, expected to exceed £100,000.

Mr Jessop dreamt of leading a British expedition to recover hundreds of gold ingots from HMS Edinburgh, torpedoed in 1942 by German submarines in the Barents Sea. Its bomb room was sucked with Russian gold to pay for US arms.

But Mr Jessop, a small salvage operator with no financial backing was regarded as "a scrap metal merchant" and subject to derision when he put his plans forward, his counsel, Mr Harry Ognall, QC, said.

Rumours spread after Mr Jessop won the salvage contract in the face of competition from two established concerns, Risdon Beazley Marine, formerly British but now German-owned, and Stolt Nielsen, a Norwegian salvage group. Scotland Yard made inquiries after the publication of a book, *Stalin's Gold*.

The prosecution had alleged that Mr Jessop and Mr Jackson had blackened the names of rivals and suggested that Mr Jessop was to pay Mr Jackson £100,000 for his help in winning the contract.

Both men denied any impropriety or that any payment was to be made for assistance.

Mr Jackson, head of a three-man salvage association department which dealt with hundreds of wrecks, admitted giving certain information to Mr Jessop, whom he regarded as a "rising star" and the best person to challenge the monopoly of salvage contracts that had been held for many years, mainly by Risdon Beazley.

Mr Jessop's consortium won the contract with a bid of 45 per cent of the value of the salvaged gold, well below rivals.

The court was told that some officials of the Salvage Association, incorporated 117 years ago under royal charter, the Board of Trade, and Ministry of Defence thought the monopoly on salvage contracts had to be broken and were unhappy with the way in which Risdon Beazley, in particular, dealt with contracts, and their charges.



Mr Keith Jessop with one of the gold bars recovered from HMS Edinburgh.

Three patients given teenager's organs

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A man aged 49 received the heart of a boy aged 16 in an operation early yesterday. Two other patients were given kidneys from the boy, the victim of a road accident.

Carl Reese, 49, of Crewe, Cheshire, died in North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent. His parents said they gave permission because they believed their son would have wanted it.

"We would like as much publicity as possible in the hope that more people will feel the same way," Mr Nigel Reese said. "His life certainly will not have been wasted, if someone else can be saved."

The heart transplant was the second of the week by surgeons at Harefield Hospital, west London. They flew to Stoke on Tuesday night to remove the heart and returned to Harefield to complete the transplant.

Surgeons from West Germany also travelled to Stoke in the hope of removing the youth's liver. They found,

however, that the organ was unsuitable.

The German surgeons were invited to come over as part of a reciprocal transplantation arrangement which exists in "partner" countries. The infirmary said yesterday: "The only two liver transplant units in Britain, at Birmingham and Cambridge, had performed that operation within the previous 24 hours and had no need of another organ."

The heart recipient, a married man from west London, was making good progress yesterday. The other heart transplant patient, a Sicilian-born woman, was also doing well.

She received the heart of a man who died last weekend. Four other patients benefited from transplants from him.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that there was evidence of heightened awareness of organ donation among the public.

Estate agencies criticized

By Christopher Worman, Property Correspondent

A national survey of people who used estate agents to sell their house shows that nearly a quarter were dissatisfied with the service and half had some complaint. *Which?*, the Consumers Association magazine reports today.

One in five felt that fees were too high, a similar proportion thought the service was inefficient, and others found the advertising inadequate.

The survey found that estate agents' particulars about houses could be incorrect and misleading, and people who used more than one agent found a difference in their attitudes ranging from "polite and efficient" to "didn't seem too interested in selling the property."

Looking at the alternatives to the use of estate agents, *Which?* recommends that if someone thinks his house will be easy to sell with some advertising, they should try to sell it privately for a few weeks.

Which? suggests that if the private sale is not successful, the vendor should ask the cost of selling through a property shop, which charges a flat rate fee for a sale.

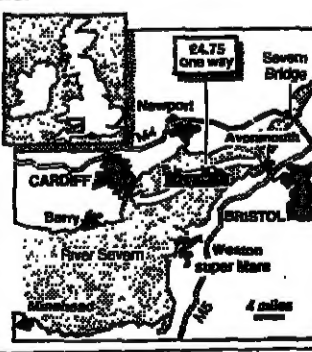
Avonmouth to Cardiff hovercraft

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Plans were announced yesterday for a hovercraft service across the Bristol Channel. A month-long trial will begin at Easter and if successful, an all-year service will link Cardiff and Avonmouth.

A Cardiff businessman, Mr Geoffrey Ford, is putting up £15,000 to finance the trial. The crossing takes about half an hour. With coach links it would take just under an hour to travel from one city centre to another. There will be five return crossings a day and a single fare will cost about £4.75.

Motorists can complete the 40-mile journey between the two centres in about 50 minutes. The return train fare is £8.



BA halves shuttle flight costs

By Patricia Clough

British Airways has cut fares on many shuttle flights from London by half, to attract a new type of non-business passenger who has only recently taken to flying.

Throughout the summer, return tickets on 140 off-peak and weekend flights will cost £58 to Glasgow and Edinburgh and £44 to Manchester.

They will be valid for day trips or for return within a month. Tickets have to be bought at least 14 days before

departure and cannot be changed or cancelled during that period. Changes before then carry a 50 per cent penalty.

According to a British Airways spokesman, some people never travelled regularly by air, rail, or road before but have recently taken to flying. "They are usually off on holiday or going to visit members of the family. They now make up 5 or 6 per cent of the total market and seem to have materialized out of thin air."

British Airways also hopes to lure passengers away from rival airlines and British Rail, which are providing stiff competition on the big-city links.

British Rail is pleased with the success of its "saver" return tickets which cost £29 from London to Glasgow, £32 to Edinburgh, and £16 to Manchester.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman and managing director of British Midland, said that his airline's standard fare was £6 cheaper than British Airways' regular flights.

Full house at Devon 'dole hotel'

By a Staff Reporter

The Grand Hotel in Dawlish, which advertises the delights of Devon to the unemployed of Manchester and Birmingham, has exceeded its expectations and attracted abusive telephone calls denouncing the "scroungers and hooligans" whose rent was paid by social security.

Mr Bob Hale, who owns the hotel with Mrs Maureen Palmer, said yesterday that the policy had kept the hotel full for most of the winter.

Two unemployed residents, Miss Rachel Hale, aged 20, and Mr Neil Oatley, aged 19, from the Isle of Wight, who lived in a tent in Winchester for several months, said: "You cannot get the dole or some jobs if you do not have an address; and often you cannot get a place to stay if they know you do not have a job."

Two accused of taking terrier

Two people charged with stealing a Yorkshire terrier from the Essex home of Mrs Jean Clayden, the horse driving champion, and demanding a £2,000 ransom were remanded on bail by Witham magistrates yesterday.

David Pearce, aged 35, and Mrs Marion West, aged 38, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, are accused of taking two-year-old Barney from Mrs Clayden's stud in Kelvedon at the weekend. It has been returned.

Suchet divorce

Mr John Suchet, Washington correspondent for ITN, was divorced by his wife Constance, aged 40, in a special procedure case at the Divorce Court in London yesterday. Mr Suchet, aged 48, did not contest the petition, in which his wife named Bonnie Clegghorn-Brown as the other party. They married in 1968.

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Law Society to coopt laymen

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical reforms to restore public confidence in the Law Society's handling of complaints against solicitors were outlined yesterday.

Under proposals made by a Law Society committee and expected to be endorsed by the society's council next week, two laymen would sit for the first time as watchdogs on the committee handling complaints.

There are also measures for a new, nationwide network of solicitors to interview aggrieved clients face to face and an arbitration panel dealing with small claims of possibly up to £500 against solicitors for bad work.

For complaints against council members, the committee proposes referral to one of a dozen outside solicitors' firms.

The reforms follow disquiet over the affair of Mr Glanville Davies, a former council member struck off for overcharging a client by £131,000. The handling of whose case was labelled a "disgrace" by the society's own inquiry.

Yesterday Mr Alan Coles, chairman of the professional purposes committee which is proposing the reforms, said: "My committee believes it has to not only get it right when it comes to complaints handling but also to demonstrate that it does get it right."

He expected that, apart from legislative changes needed to give the laymen full voting rights, the new measures would be in force by the autumn.

The cost of the proposals, which the society has taken the unusual step of publishing, is estimated to be up to £300,000 on the present £1m budget for handling 8,000 complaints a year. About 200 involve council members or their firms and one in five comes from other solicitors.

The professional purposes committee's lay members, to be coopted with two new non-council solicitor members, would be appointed by an independent body.

Their role, the committee said, would be to dispel "widely

held fears and suspicions" about the way it operates because of the confidentiality surrounding its work.

Criticisms over the Davies affair go far wider than the way the society handles complaints against council members, the committee said.

At worst there are accusations that the society whitewashes members of the profession and at best "unease that justice is not seen to be done because the society is judge and jury in its own cause."

Call for judge to go

Mr Leslie Parsons, the Welsh businessman who made legal history by getting Mr Davies struck off, has now made the unique move of petitioning the Queen to have a circuit judge, Sir Jonathan Clarke, removed from the Bench.

Sir Jonathan, a former Law Society president was a member of the society's council when Mr Parsons complained about Mr Davies' conduct.

PARLIAMENT April 4 1984

Precedents for cancellation of council elections

COMMONS

The Government hopes to be able to make available before the weekend a brief summary analysis of the main points of the many representations it has received on its proposals to abolish the GLC and six other metropolitan authorities. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, indicated during questioning in the Commons.

He explained he also hoped to indicate some of the Government's thinking when he came next week to move the second reading of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, published last Friday, which provides for the cancellation of next year's elections to these seven authorities. The six metropolitan county councils are those in Tyne and Wear, South and West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

There were precedents for preventing elections during local government reorganization, he said, in reporting he had received more than 2,500 responses to the White Paper *Streamlining the Cities*, since last answering questions in the House.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby), asked what proportion of these calls into question his proposals? He accepted the response of the Merseyside Council, which has successfully promoted commercial and business activity in the region and that the abolition of this county council would mean savings whatever for the business community on Merseyside.

Bearing in mind that he told the Tory Party Conference in October that it should listen to the voice of industry, is it not about time he practiced what he preached?

Mr Jenkin: The Government was elected on a clear manifesto commitment to carry out this

reform of local government. That is what we propose to do.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C), will he give further thought to issuing a White Paper detailing his considered proposals when he has had a chance to reflect on all the representations made to him?

Mr Jenkin: I am considering what will be the best way of announcing our decisions on a number of matters we have had representations about. I hope to indicate some of the Government's thinking when I move the second reading of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, which I introduced last Friday.

Mr Robert Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne North, Lab), when does he propose to publish the full objections in detail he has had to this White Paper?

Mr Jenkin: It would be contrary to all precedent for a Government to publish all the representations it has received. I shall make available very shortly - I hope before the weekend - a brief summary analysis of the main points, followed by the full summary analysis of the representations as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Toby Jevell (Twickenham, C), how much taxpayers' money has the GLC spent on propaganda in favour of its own continuation?

Mr Jenkin: Up to the end of March it was more than £2m and they are already budgeting to spend a further £1m in the rest of this year. Many taxpayers regard that as a gross misuse of taxpayers' money.

Mr John Cunningham, chief (Opposition) spokesman on the environment (Copeland, Lab), since the proposals are against all precedent, why is the House of Commons, and with it 18,000,000 people who will be affected by these proposals, being denied any sight of the evidence?

Is it not also true there is no manifesto commitment for the abolition of elections in 1985 as is

private contract and we shall, in a short while, reach a point where 20 per cent of design work will be put out to private contract.

But there are a number of major questions about the management and organization of the PSA and these are under active study.

Mr William van Straubenzee (Birmingham, C) asked if before a new chairman was announced, the reorganization proposals particularly associated with Mr Alfred and affecting regional offices would be put in abeyance.

Mr Jenkin: We have concluded that it would not be sensible at this stage to proceed along the lines that Mr Alfred was advocating. We are

chairman of remarkable calibre to bring it to order.

Mr Jenkin said many things went right at PSA and were done to a high standard and he instanced the cabinet war rooms just opened in Westminster. The PSA was a complex organization with a high quality of management.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab), will Mr Jenkin ensure that whoever is appointed is suitable, unlike Mr Alfred, that he is not paid an inflated salary of £50,000 like Mr Alfred and that the Government does not engage in another tax fiddle of paying it into a private company?

Mr Jenkin replied: He would be well advised not to use the words "tax fiddle" outside this House and he should not use the phrase of this House to say those things inside the House.

Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on the environment: Why does not Mr Jenkin admit what everyone outside the House knows very well, which is that Mr Montague Alfred was dismissed from his £1,000 a week job from the private sector?

There have been two wasted years in the appointment, and Mr Alfred failed to root out inefficiency and corruption with his undermining of the confidence and trust of the majority of the staff whose integrity and efficiency is in question.

Mr Jenkin: When I made a statement on October 5 and published the Wandale Touch report, I made clear that the Government attached the highest priority to the PSA and was determined to root out corruption.

But I make it abundantly clear that there is not the slightest suggestion, never has been, a glimmer of suggestion, that Mr Alfred himself had any connexion

with the police. The names of pregnant women when they were investigating the death of a newly born baby buried in a field, causing distress to at least one mother who was questioned.

The council calls for disclosures of confidential information only in the most exceptional circumstances and after an order was made under the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, or with permission from the data protection registrar.

It says that medical information should be exempt from the Bill, and all other disclosures allowed should be reported to the registrar and the information destroyed as soon as possible by the receiving body.

The Government should also issue guidelines on when disclosures can be made for crime detection.

In another recent case, the Department of Health and Social Security admitted that it

data which it should prohibit", the paper says.

Anyone in charge of a meat inspection bank could give information on a patient to a police officer, tax inspector, or customs and excise official. Similarly, government officials could breach the confidentiality of unemployment benefit files, and banks the confidentiality of clients' accounts.

Miss Marie Staunton, the council's legal officer, said the typical case was that of a Birmingham doctor whose health centre was recently vandalized. The police asked his receptionist if they could see records of a named suspect and, under the Bill, she would be able to allow that without the doctor's consent.

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Jessel: How much spent on propaganda?

being proposed? Does he not recognize that it is setting a very dangerous constitutional precedent in taking this course of action?

Mr Jenkin: On the contrary, the precedents on the question of elections are entirely in favour of what the Government is doing. In each previous local government reorganization, in 1962 and 1972, there were provisions whose wording was similar to that in the Bill I hope we will debate next week.

They caught, as well as elections, ordinary elections for county boroughs, urban and rural districts, many of which were elected by thirds. These happen to be dealing with a council where the whole council is up for election, but the principle is the same.

Mr Derek Patchett (Leeds Central, Lab), the public is concerned that legislation is being introduced to abolish elections before this House has had the opportunity to vote on the abolition of the metropolitan counties.

Mr Jenkin: It is my intention that the order for the suspension of elections will be introduced in the next session of Parliament. The properties are entirely preserved.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C), The Secretary of State could dispense with the Bill if he was able to indicate that attention was being given to the whole question of local government financing.

Mr Jenkin: Where those authorities affected have been able to make worthwhile estimates of the cost to them of running the services that will devolve upon them, they have indicated the prospect of substantial savings.

What were the prospects now?

The Speaker said he should not read more into what he said yesterday than what he had said today. He had new rules in which he said he would not read more into what he said today.

The first of several MPs who then attempted to raise a point of order on the same subject of civil liberties

question of civil liberties arose from the fact that the Speaker had said he would not read more into what he said today.

Mr Clay later said he and Mr Tony Benn (Cheshire, Lab) had been at Greenham Common earlier and the question of civil liberties arose from the fact that the Speaker had said he would not read more into what he said today.

It was a matter quite separate from the miners' dispute. They had seen police road blocks more than a mile from the base and ordinary members of the public were being stopped.

The Speaker: That is not a matter on which I can rule. What happens at Greenham Common is not a matter for the Chair.

Mr Benn said they had seen a mass eviction at Greenham Common this morning and police roadblocks from which the same issues arose as from police action elsewhere.

If major erosions of civil liberties occurred and were brought to the attention of the House which then, on one or another, did not find opportunity to discuss them, the House was brought into disrepute.

The Speaker said there would have been time today for MPs to apply to make an application for an order of civil liberties which they wished to do so. He was not prepared to take any further points of order on the subject.

Mr Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in a Commons written reply that it was estimated that all car and van drivers and front seat passengers of motor vehicles would be covered by 9,000 fatalities and 130,000 serious injuries would have been averted since 1970.

When the fugitives abandoned their motor cycle PC Foreman confronted one of them in the lobby of the London Hospital in Whitechapel. As he tried to get the gun, he was shot at point-blank range through the chest, stomach and bowel.

After major surgery he was on the sick list and in considerable pain for nearly eight months. He said after yesterday's experience he still suffers from time to time and doctors were unable to say whether he would ever recover fully.

As she pinned the award on him, the Lord Mayor said that PC Foreman's conduct "was out of the ordinary, was in the

highest traditions of the police". However the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board awarded him £2,660 for his injuries, a sum which only just covered costs incurred by the couple when they moved to a secret address after receiving threatening telephone calls

allegedly from the escaped raiders.

With legal assistance from the Police Federation, PC Foreman, aged 26 and the father of a daughter aged seven months, is hoping that a review of his case will lead to an increased offer.

PC Foreman with his wife, Joan after receiving the award for bravery (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

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PC Foreman with his wife, Joan after receiving the award for bravery (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Demands for debate rejected by Speaker

COAL DISPUTE

Labour MPs made a further unsuccessful attempt to persuade the Speaker to grant an emergency debate on police action in the miners' strike. Complaints were also made about the police operation at Greenham Common earlier today.

Mr Patrick McKee (Barnsley, West Yorkshire, Lab), asked the Speaker to grant an emergency debate on what he described as the erosion of civil liberties arising from the present coal industry dispute.

He said he was not seeking a debate to attack the police, but he believed it would be in the best interests of the House, of civil liberties and of the police themselves that a debate should be held.

The House had a right to know what instructions had been given to the police and whether these instructions were being exceeded.

He agreed with what had been said yesterday about the freedom of movement and the right of the police and whether these instructions were being exceeded.

It was impossible to be precise about the exact financial regime which London boroughs would find themselves in if the boroughs should shoulder the burden of paying for concessionary fares, but the Government would carefully consider the implications for targets for boroughs and by implication their treatment for rate-capping, if any of them came near to that.

They would try to preserve the method by which net yield was

distributed from the richer to the poorer boroughs.

He hoped the clause would never be implemented because the London boroughs would come to a voluntary agreement. This and other Government new clauses contained provisions suggested as a fall-back scheme.

Opposition amendments being considered with the Government proposals gave no opportunities for boroughs to agree to a voluntary scheme and guaranteed the continuation of whatever scheme the GLC left in operation on the appointed day. That was misconceived.

The Government scheme was superior. It was backed by statute as

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London's concessionary fare scheme gets statutory backing

TRANSPORT

A Government new clause which, for the first time, gives statutory backing to a London-wide concessionary fares scheme and provides a guarantee of off-peak free travel for pensioners and other disadvantaged people was moved by Mr Nicky Bates, Secretary of State for Transport, during the report stage of the London Regional Transport Bill.

Mr Bates said that concessionary fares had concerned MPs more than any other issue in the Bill. The issues in the Bill were important. It was a pity that the House had to spend so much time on the Bill, especially as there had never been any threat to the passes.

It had been the Greater London Council's best hope of opposing the Bill, by frightening pensioners. They had exploited it ruthlessly.

London had an especially generous system of concessionary fares and in the three counties, where the need was as great, if not greater, there was about a quarter of the cash contribution to concessionary fares.

If London wanted to make this a priority, it should be a priority. It was right that Londoners should pay for it and that it should come from the general resources of local government in London.

It was impossible to be precise about the exact financial regime which London boroughs would find themselves in if the boroughs should shoulder the burden of paying for concessionary fares, but the Government would carefully consider the implications for targets for boroughs and by implication their treatment for rate-capping, if any of them came near to that.

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To suggest that the concession should be extended to the peaks seemed to deny the transport logic and the economics of why concessionary fares were a good idea in the first place. The Opposition proposal to abolish the afternoon peak as a period when the pensioner was barred from free travel would cost £4m.

I hope the GLC will now stop flapping this dead horse (he said). It is sickening to have continually to try to reassure people, even after February 16 when I made it clear the Government would bring this clause forward.

As recently as two or three days ago, the GLC were still saying in a broadsheet that the Government was refusing to place a legal duty on the boroughs to provide concessionary fares. He did not think these advertisements by the GLC would pass the tests of the Advertising Standard Authority. If the GLC put up posters of that sort he would make sure they were referred to the ASA.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said the clause made clear that if the boroughs did not provide a uniform scheme then the Secretary of State could use his powers to make sure such a scheme came into effect.

What we have (he said) is a local authority service to be financed by the local authority but controlled by the Secretary of State.

He was sorry Mr Bates had not taken the opportunity to take the scheme even further and consider its possible extension to the unemployed.

An Opposition amendment to extend the concession to the 4.30 to 6.30pm rush hour was rejected by 273 votes to 181 - Government majority. The Government new clauses agreed to.

It was right to keep the scheme to off-peak periods - 9.30am to 4.30pm and 6.30pm to 1am. It was pointless to encourage pensioners to travel when workers and commuters were going to and from work at peak times.

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Lesotho claims South Africa is plotting new coup against Jonathan

From Michael Hornsby, Maseru

Lesotho, the former British protectorate of Basutoland, believes that South Africa is plotting with opposition politicians to overthrow the regime of Chief Leabua Jonathan, who has held power since independence in 1966, and to replace it with a government ready to do Pretoria's bidding.

Tambo vows to step up war

Mr Oliver Tambo, leader of the African National Congress, has pledged to step up the war against South Africa despite the non-aggression pact between Pretoria and Maputo denying bases in Mozambique to its forces. Reuter reports from Harare. "We have made adjustments to our struggle since the recent peace accord and deployed more freedom fighters within South Africa to launch the final onslaught against the enemy," he said.

Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. Botha, in his dismissal of the latest allegations as "antics" by Chief Jonathan.

For once, however, Maseru has firm evidence, including a detailed account of a clandestine meeting on January 6 in Pretoria between Mr Botha and six opposition politicians at which, at the very least, South Africa agreed to give financial backing to a new anti-Jonathan movement, to be known as the United Democratic Alliance (UDA).

The UDA was formally inaugurated at the meeting and Mr Phoka Chabane, a member of the opposition Basotho Congress Party (BCP), was elected chairman.

Another leading figure in the new grouping is Mr Charles Molapo, a former Information Minister, who resigned from the Cabinet and the ruling Basotho National Party (BNP) last year over the opening of Russian, North Korean and Chinese embassies in Maseru.

According to Mr Chabane and Mr Molapo, another defec-

tor from the BNP, who also attended the Pretoria meeting, Mr Botha was given an assurance that if the UDA came to power, it would expel the communist embassies and ban communism in Lesotho and set up a government of national reconciliation.

In return, they say, Mr Botha agreed to try to curb the activities of the Lesotho Liberation Army, a guerrilla group believed to operate from South Africa under the direction of Mr Niso Mokhele, leader of an exiled faction of the BCP, who was cheated of power in 1970, when Chief Jonathan declared martial law in the middle of an election he was losing.

They also say Mr Botha agreed to provide money to buy five Land-Rovers for use in the remote parts of this mountainous country during the campaign for elections to the National assembly which the government has promised to hold, possibly in November or December of this year. They would be the first since 1970.

"We see nothing wrong in asking South Africa for help," Mr Chabane said. "In fact, we feel encouraged to do so, because Chief Jonathan did the same thing in the past."

This alludes to the fact that Chief Jonathan was helped into power with South African money and then helped by Pretoria to stay there after the 1970 coup, when the local paramilitary force, then commanded by a South African officer, crushed all opposition.

The Lesotho government's version of the Pretoria meeting goes somewhat further and claims there was also discussion of the need for the UDA to be ready to step into an "administrative vacuum" created by South African military intervention in the event that Chief Jonathan remained in power and the communist embassies were not removed.

It is common cause among all the Lesotho participants, however, that during the meeting Mr Botha gave a warning that Pretoria might have to act "in self-defence" if the communist embassies were deemed to be promoting the guerrilla activities of the banned African National Congress inside the Republic.

Soyuz links up with space craft in orbit

Moscow (Reuters) - India's first cosmonaut and his two Soviet colleagues yesterday docked their Soyuz T11 spacecraft with the orbiting Salyut 7 station, where three Soviet cosmonauts waited to greet them.

Docking took place on schedule as the Soyuz and Salyut craft were over the Black Sea, a former cosmonaut, Mr Alexander Alexandrov, said from mission control in Moscow.

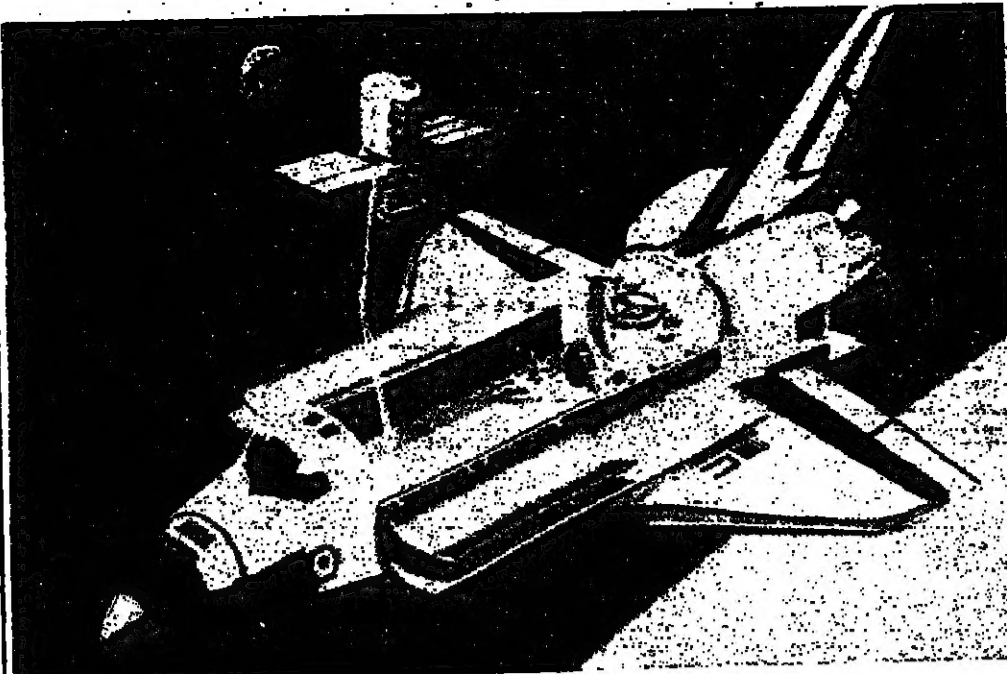
Colour pictures taken from Salyut 7 showed clear details of the approaching space craft. At the moment of contact, technicians and spectators at mission control stood and applauded.

Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma was blasted into orbit on Tuesday with the mission commander, Colonel Yuri Malyshev, and Flight Engineer Gennady Strekalov amid publicity unprecedented in the Soviet space programme.

It was the first time six people had been in orbit on board what is effectively the same vehicle - the Salyut 7, the Soyuz T11 and a Soyuz T10 already attached to the space station.

Among those watching the television pictures of the docking in the space centre was Indian Defence Minister, Mr Ramaswami Venkataraman.

After docking, the cosmonauts began routine procedure to equalize pressure between the space craft and the station.



Space grab: How the shuttle's manipulation arm retrieves a disabled satellite. The solar satellite is the first vehicle with a "remote grapple" for the arm to grab.

Shuttle's first rescue mission

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The crew of the next flight of the American Challenger spacecraft, to be launched on Friday, will conduct the first rescue mission in space. The astronauts will retrieve a scientific satellite which failed a few months after launch, and they will repair it in the cargo bay.

The vehicle to be recovered is called the Solar Maximum Mission which was put into orbit on February 14, 1980. Its control equipment failed when three fuses blew. Unfortunately the success of the experiment depended on its scientific equipment being pointed with great accuracy at the Sun for recording

images of the 11-year cycle of sunspots.

Once the fuses blew the satellite began tumbling out of control in space, and only two instruments with a wide angle view developed by American scientists have been of any use.

Other equipment intended to look for bursts of X-rays associated with flares from the Sun was built for British astronomers of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College, London, and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford.

However, to salvage the \$50m satellite an astronaut has to move across the emptiness of

space propelled by a nitrogen-jet operated backpack tested on the last journey, which was the twelfth flight in orbit in the shuttle programme. The astronaut has to clip a harness to the satellite and stabilize its motion by using the thrusters on the jet-pack.

Then the crew inside the Challenger can grab the satellite with the shuttle's robot manipulator arm and bring it into the cargo bay for maintenance. The satellite is rotating at about one revolution every six and a half minutes, but it is in an orbit 300 miles above the Earth which is higher than those in which the shuttle has worked previously.

'Active defence' needed Four states backing terror, Shultz says

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has accused Syria, Libya, Iran and North Korea of involvement in "state-supported terrorism," which he described as a form of warfare. "It is more and more appropriate that the nations of the West face up to the need for active defence against terrorism," he said.

His warning comes at a time of urgent examination by the Administration of means of combating terrorism, including the establishment of a quick reaction brigade within the American armed services. Mr Shultz said traditional methods of enhanced security and better intelligence were no longer adequate by themselves.

"It is increasingly doubtful that a purely passive strategy can even begin to cope with the problem," he continued. "This raises a host of questions for a free society. In what circumstances - and how - should we take preventive and preemptive action against known terrorists?"

groups? What evidence do we insist upon before taking such steps?"

Mr Shultz, addressing a meeting of the Trilateral Commission, a group of prominent citizens of North America, Western Europe and Japan, said the United States was relatively well prepared to deter an all-out Soviet attack in Europe.

"But day in and day out we will continue to see a wide range of conflicts that fall in a grey area between major war and millennial peace. Terrorism - particularly state-supported terrorism - is already a contemporary weapon directed at America's interests, America's values and America's allies," he added.

Mr Shultz did not suggest specific ways of combating terrorism. He said that once it became established that terrorism worked, that it achieved its political objectives, its practitioners would be bolder and the threat would be greater.

Basque party faces ban

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A Spanish administrative court has handed down a decision which will oblige the Government to decide whether it wants to try to ban the radical left-wing Basque nationalist

party which backs the ETA separatist organization. The government of Señor Felipe Gonzalez now has 20 days in which to make up its mind and seek through the courts a declaration that the controversial Popular Unity is illegal.

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Guinea coup pledge to restore liberty

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

The West African state of Guinea yesterday appeared calm after Monday's military coup which, according to official communiqués, the logical result of years of repression and corruption under the late President Sekou Touré, and designed to give the country liberty and democracy.

On the orders of the national radio station, people returned to work yesterday morning and telephone and telegraph lines were restored. However, the borders remained closed. Witnesses spoke of the military takeover being celebrated in the streets.

The members of the 18-man military Committee of National Recovery, which appears to be in command, have been announced. The first name on the list is Colonel Lansana Kouaté. The committee consists of two colonels, five majors and lower-ranking officers. The five heads of the country's regions are captains.

Although communiqués emphasize that the coup has been staged by all the armed forces, the absence of senior officers points to a split within the military. The lower-level officers involved belong mainly



Dr Beavogui: No mention of Sekou Touré's successor.

to the Malink tribe from the northern highlands, as did President Sekou Touré.

Little is known about them and no mention has been made of the fate of the interim head of state, Dr Lansana Beavogui.

All political prisoners have been freed and it is thought that much may be made of the previous regime's harshness against political adversaries.

Political prisoners end Ankara hunger strike

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Hundreds of left-wing political prisoners yesterday called off a 42-day fast in the Mamak military prison here, which they had started in protest against beatings and prison conditions, a military court was told.

Mr Oguzhan Muftuoglu, a leading defendant in the mass trial against the underground Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Path) organization, told the court that the aim of the hunger strike had been to promote their demands for humane treatment in the prison and not to make political gains as had been suggested.

Although the prisoners apparently failed to win any concessions, the military judge expressed, in a conciliatory tone, his belief that the problems would be easier to solve with the fast now over.

But, in a separate trial, Mr Mustafa Kacaroglu, a ranking leader of the Kurtulus (Liberation) group, said he was determined to carry his fast to the end, with an undetermined number of his friends.

It was believed, however, that the vast majority of the prisoners had ended the fast in apparent disappointment that their action failed to rouse the public, which was left in the

dark because of a strictly-enforced blackout on news of the protest.

The people were first informed of the hunger strike through a terse statement issued by the General Staff Headquarters on Monday, in which the fast was attacked as part of a propaganda campaign to embarrass Turkey at international forums, influence verdicts at trials, help organize pressure groups abroad and mislead foreign public opinion.

The statement, quoting the findings of a nine-man commission comprising high-ranking officers, army doctors and government officials, denied widespread use of torture or maltreatment at military prisons. But it conceded that, of 63,000 people imprisoned since the proclamation of martial law in December 1978, 53 had died in prisons.

Of the deaths, 14 were suicides, 23 the result of various illnesses, two were due to torture and seven to hunger strikes. Seven more deaths were still being investigated, the statement said, and 80 officials found responsible for "isolated cases of torture or maltreatment" had been punished.

London arts will not be decimated

ds attack tion plan

libel award

Mondale routs Hart in the shootout at the crossroads

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

New York was the big one, the turning point, and Mr. Walter Mondale won it decisively. It was the most important of the battles on the long road to the Democratic presidential nomination - and Mr. Mondale must feel that the strong assault by Senator Gary Hart has been beaten off and that the prize is not within his grasp.

The score so far

Mr. Mondale gets 137 delegates from the primary, according to incomplete returns. Mr. Hart gets 76 and Mr. Jackson 39. The overall delegate score is:

Mondale	864
Hart	514
Jackson	147
Uncommitted	322
Other	38

A candidate needs 1,967 delegates to secure the nomination.

It is extraordinary to think that three weeks ago Mr. Mondale was close to obliteration and Mr. Hart was surfing on a great wave of support. They met at the crossroads of

Mr. Mondale is well aware of the negative effects of being labelled the front-runner, and, in spite of his win by the largest margin in the campaign so far, refuses to claim the front-runner position, acknowledging that there is a long way to go to the convention in San Francisco. Mr. Hart is hoping that his younger-generation appeal will keep him in the running in Pennsylvania, and that, in the longer term, the big scores in the western states will help him to rebound.

No wonder that Mr. Mondale, flushed with triumph, confetti in his hair, faced his exuberant supporters in a Manhattan hotel and declared: "I love New York". It was a famous victory for the candidate criticized so often for being unexciting. It was a day of deep disappointment for the Colorado senator who promoted himself as the man of fresh and exciting ideas, the leader of the younger

generation of better-off upwardly-mobile liberals.

At the same time, it was an historic day for the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who ran a close third to Mr. Hart, with 26 per cent of the poll, his highest vote in the campaign so far. Mr. Jackson is a unique phenomenon in American politics: he has mobilized the black vote and changed and energized the political atmosphere. In New York, he has dramatically increased his leverage.

Mr. Mondale has been restored and rebuilt. It shows in his bearing. New York was a fight he had to win. Defeat would have all but finished him. All his organizational power was deployed and he had strong backing from unions,

Jews, Catholics, Hispanics, older people and women.

The old-fashioned Democratic machine was behind him, with the powerful influences of Mayor Edward Koch of New York city and Governor Mario Cuomo of New York state. The traditional network delivered.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mondale banked on his substance and experience - unexciting, perhaps, but dependable. He staked his solidarity against Mr. Hart's "new ideas" - and the latter plainly failed to get his message over. The voters did not find enough beef beneath the pie crust.

There must be considerable doubt about Mr. Hart's ability to

come back after this most significant of reverses. Mr. Mondale scored well among the "yuppies" (the young, upwardly-mobile) professionals from whom Mr. Hart has been drawing much support.

In the nasty little television war, Mr. Mondale's famous "red telephone" commercial, suggesting that Mr. Hart lacks the experience to handle dangerous situations, outpointed Mr. Hart's "burning fuse" commercial which suggested that Mr. Mondale's Central America policy would cost American lives.

Mr. Hart spent a million dollars on television promotion in the New York primary, more than twice as much as Mr.

Mondale. Mr. Jackson, incidentally, spent nothing on television. "No cosmetics," he said. "What you see is what you get."

New York state is worth 258 delegates at the Democratic national convention, the second highest number in the country after California.

Mr. Mondale, confidence restored, must be regarded as "the man most likely to" as the contenders turn their attention to next week's Pennsylvania primary, where 195 delegates are at stake. This is an industrialized state, where union organization is strong, and the appeal to traditional democratic party values should be successful. It ought to be Mondale country - tough going for Mr. Hart.



Thumbs up: A grin-faced Senator Hart flanked by his jubilant opponents, Mr. Mondale and Jesse Jackson.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr. Walter Mondale's massive victory in New York has taken him a very long way towards the Democratic nomination. It is true that primaries have still to be held in such large states as Texas and California, which are expected to be favourable territory for Senator Gary Hart. But his campaign has been based upon a sense of excitement among the electorate and the enthusiasm of volunteers. It needs to be sustained by its own momentum, and is not in good shape to withstand such a significant setback as the loss of Illinois a fortnight ago. What is more, a sense is growing that Mr. Mondale is the natural candidate.

Senator Hart's campaign rose on a myth, and to some extent it is declining on a myth. It was a myth that he had a sackful of new ideas ready to put into practice if only he could be let into the White House.

But it is also a myth that he has nothing to say, that he represents only his own ambition. He represents an approach to government that is distinct from both President Reagan's and Mr. Mondale's.

It can justly be called the new liberalism because it involves seeking liberal purposes by new methods. It does not accept the necessity for the traditional liberal solutions of large spending programmes, big government and expanding trade union power. Above all, it is an attitude that favours experiment.

Point of view to be heard

This is a point of view that deserves to be heard. But there are doubts as to how thoroughly Senator Hart has thought it through. The longer this campaign has gone on, the less ready he has seemed for the presidency.

Every time I have heard him and Mr. Mondale together on the same occasion, I have thought after 10 minutes that Mr. Hart should be the candidate. His style is so much livelier. He has potentially the air of elegance and authority that goes well with high office.

By contrast, Mr. Mondale tends to be boring - especially until he warms up. Yet each time I have concluded after 20 minutes that he would be the better choice. He speaks like a man who is thinking of being President, not just of how he could be elected.

One may not like all the positions he has taken. One may fear that he has made too many commitments to be able to hold the line effectively against trade protection, even if he wants to; that he owes too many favours to the trade unions; and that his attachment to many of the traditional spending programmes may be too great to enable him to cut the budget deficit as he would wish.

Yet one does get the impression of a man who has considered carefully what it would mean to be in the White House.

Sensitive to responsibilities

This quite often reinforces his natural caution, so that he becomes even less exciting. But it is reassuring to find a candidate who is sensitive to the responsibilities of office before he has been elected, and who is therefore usually - though by no means always - wary of peddling simplistic policies.

It is still more reassuring to find the American electorate voting for a candidate because most people think he would make a better President than his rival.

The fear that is most often expressed about the modern American nominating process with its plethora of primaries, is that it is liable to favour meretricious candidates. But there is nothing flashy about Mr. Mondale.

He is a solid, essentially responsible, not very inspiring but highly professional politician, who knows how he would try to conduct a presidency.

Time and again during these past three weeks I have heard people say that although they think Mr. Mondale would be the better President, they intended to vote for Senator Hart because they believe he stood the stronger chance of defeating Mr. Reagan. It is good that that view has not prevailed in New York.

Even if Mr. Mondale would not be a good president, it is politically healthy that people should be voting for him because they think he might be.

Stubborn Mitterrand refuses to give in on steel cuts

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand made clear yesterday that the French Government has no intention of going back on its much contested plans to restructure the steel industry. But he promised that there would be no compulsory redundancies among the 21,000 to 27,000 workers whose jobs will have to go.

In a wide-ranging press conference lasting nearly two hours, only the third since he came to power nearly three years ago, President Mitterrand insisted that the country was faced by a stark choice: either to make itself capable of confronting international competition, thereby ensuring its prosperity and independence, or to go into an economic decline.

It was his "duty" (the catchword of his press conference) to take the former course. The Government could not keep subsidizing industries which were perpetually in the red. Indeed, in the case of steel, the European Community had ruled that no public subsidies would be allowed after 1987. Yet the French steel industry was losing 10 billion francs (£870m) a year which the Government was having to finance.

A plan had to be made to bring the industry's accounts into balance over the next four years. The plan would involve expenditure of a further 27 billion to 30 billion francs by 1987, in addition to the 17 billion francs already spent between 1981 and 1983, he said. He knew it was difficult, almost unbearable, for the workers involved. He understood their anger. The Government must now explain its action and appeal to the good sense and reason of the workers

and to the national interest. "I know my duty and I must fulfil it," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand promised that any steelworker who lost his job would either be eligible for early retirement or for "retraining leave", under which he would be able to undergo retraining for up to two years while continuing to receive 80 per cent of his former net salary, before taking up a new job.

The Government was taking other measures to help create new industries and new jobs in the areas concerned, he added.

The Government had not changed its policies, Mr. Mitterrand said, in an evident reference to the criticisms of the Communist Party. "It is the same policy (as before) with the same objectives, but different

obstacles are involved for which different action is required."

Throughout his opening speech, he repeatedly made particular reference to Lorraine where a general strike was in force yesterday in protest against the Government's steel plans. Lorraine would benefit from the special measures the Government was introducing, he said, adding with emotion: "Who does not have Lorraine in their heart?"

But soothing words may not be enough to placate the workers who have grown sceptical of Government promises which remain unfulfilled or are even reversed. The first reaction from the Communist CGT union, was that there was nothing fundamentally new in Mr. Mitterrand's comments on the crisis in the steel industry.

The "hot" topic of the Communists' continued participation in the Government, in the light of their ever-increasing attacks on Government policies, did not come until questions were permitted in the second half of the press conference. But Mr. Mitterrand immediately sidestepped the issue, saying simply that it was "time to clarify the situation" without explaining what action, if any, he intended to take.

"I listen, I observe, and I see that a new situation has been created on account of a different reading of the undertakings given (in the June, 1981, pact between the Socialist and Communist parties)," he said.

My aim remains the same. I want to assemble all the popular forces in the country, but not at any price. Not at the price of seeing the Government's effort undermined in the minds of the public," he added. He refused to be drawn any further.

The strike, called in protest at the recent killing of the BJP's Punjab unit president, Mr. Harbans Lal Khanna, in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Monday, was given partial support in Delhi, but press reports said support was almost total in the Hindu-dominated Haryana state which borders Punjab.

Twenty-five people have been killed over the past four days in Punjab where militant Sikhs are pressing for greater autonomy and other political and religious concessions. Their campaign has left more than 400 people dead in the past 21 months.

CHANDIGARH: This territory, which serves as the joint capital of the states of Punjab and Haryana, was declared a disturbed area yesterday after a day-long general strike against Sikh extremist attacks (AP reports). On Tuesday Mrs. Gandhi had declared the whole of Punjab a "dangerously disturbed" area.

With the full support of the allies, the United States has been and remains ready to resume both sets of negotiations at any time," the communique said.

The Soviet Union last autumn suspended its participation in the Start and INF talks after Nato began deployment in western Europe of the US-made intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Delhi strike over Sikh extremism

Delhi (AFP) - Police arrested nearly 200 people here yesterday as Hindus launched a day-long general strike to protest against killings blamed on Sikh militants in the state of Punjab.

The authorities increased security and banned public gatherings at the main pro-Hindu opposition parties increased pressure on the Central Government to deal firmly with Sikh extremists in Punjab.

Police reported minor clashes, brick-throwing incidents and attempts to defile bus tyres in the densely populated walled city of Old Delhi and in western districts.

In Old Delhi, more than 130 supporters of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called yesterday's general strike, took to the streets, demanding firm action against Sikh extremists and the resignation of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Government for its "inability to save innocent lives".

There was no violence, but all the demonstrators were arrested for violating prohibitory orders. Forty supporters of the Lok Dal party were taken into custody when they tried to stage a 24-hour sit-in outside Mrs. Gandhi's official residence in defiance of prohibitory orders.

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Expressing "concern that in contrast the Soviet build-up is continuing relentlessly at all levels," they said that the Soviet Union now has 378 SS20 missile launchers installed.

At the meetings in this western Turkish town, the ministers also discussed a possible refusal by The Netherlands to deploy 48 cruise missiles, as provided for in a Nato decision of 1979. The Dutch government is divided over the deployment.

Soviet fleet close to 'nuclear war' phase

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Soviet Union, which during the past week has had its largest-ever assembly of naval forces in the North Atlantic, may now be preparing for the final phase of the exercise, which could involve a simulated nuclear attack.

The 30 surface fighting ships, probably accompanied by about 20 nuclear and diesel-powered submarines, were yesterday reported by Nato to have withdrawn north of the Arctic circle, and to be heading north-east.

This could imply that they were heading back in the direction of the Kola peninsula, where most of the vessels have their bases.

However, such exercises usually conclude with simulated nuclear warfare. This would involve exercising the command and control procedures leading up to firing nuclear missiles from submarines in Yankee and Delta classes.

Nato urges Russians to come back and talk

Cesme, Turkey (AFP) - Nato Defence Ministers yesterday urged the Soviet Union to return "without preconditions and without delay" to negotiations in Geneva on limiting nuclear weapons.

In the final communique of the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Nato nuclear planning group, the ministers "regretted that the Soviet Union had not yet agreed to a date for the resumption of the strategic arms reduction talks (Start) and that it had as yet refused to proceed with the intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) negotiations."

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Lorraine paralysed by general strike

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Lorraine, the region worst affected by the Government's plan for restructuring the French steel industry, was paralysed yesterday by a general strike called in sympathy with the steelworkers, many thousands of whose jobs are threatened.

Roads, railway lines and border posts with Belgium, West Germany and Luxembourg were blocked by barricades of burning tyres and metal. Aircraft were prevented from taking off from Nancy. Shops kept their blinds down. All public offices closed. Pickets made sure no one entered the factories, and all public transport stopped.

Only the fire brigade, the ambulance service, journalists and a few cafes were given dispensation from the general strike order. The police were in force, but they tried to keep a low profile during the mass demonstrations in the main towns in the afternoon.

An official of the communist CGT union said that union members were "ready for anything". They would do their utmost to ensure there were no clashes with the police, he said, but just in case they had equipped themselves with fire bombs, bottles of acid, slings, pickaxe handles and shields.

At midday, all the church bells rang out in an expression of sympathy with the steelworkers. The bishops of Metz and Nancy, who had given permission for the bells to be rung, put out a statement saying that the human consequences of the Government's steel plans would be "heavy with fear and suffering".

"Everywhere we go, we find situations of distress. Cries of anguish come to us from all sides," they said. "The understandable anger could degenerate into serious violence."

M. Andre Bergeron, General Secretary of the independent Force Ouvriere union, also expressed his fears of an industrial relations explosion

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The archbishop felt his visit had given him new insights into the situation of West Indians in Britain, and it is understood he is likely to refer to this later.

During the visit he met British troops in Belize, and in Trinidad he was asked to inaugurate a joint Anglican-Roman Catholic project by cutting the first turf.

He was said to have been impressed by the extent of cooperation and good-will between the churches, though he several times criticized the so-called "electronic evangelist" who is a growing phenomenon in the West Indies - television fundamentalist preachers in the American pattern, described by Dr. Runcie as offering "short cuts."

Primate home from triumphant tour of Caribbean stressing unity theme

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, returned to London yesterday after a month-long tour of the West Indies, the longest and most strenuous he has made. He visited 12 islands and eight dioceses, and made over 50 addresses and sermons. It was Dr. Runcie's eighth visit overseas in the past year.

Mr. Terry Waite, the archbishop's adviser on Anglican Communion affairs who was by his side throughout the latest visit, said Dr. Runcie had been received with enthusiasm almost everywhere he went, the one exception being Guyana where his official reception was "sober".

The Guyana Government regards the Anglican church there as one of its principal critics, particularly over civil rights issues. Elsewhere it had sometimes

been almost a royal progress, with happy crowds lining the streets packed and jubilant congregations in the churches he visited.

Dr. Runcie's theme in his addresses was "unity" - the unity of the churches, of the people in the nation, and of the Caribbean. The welcome he received had been marked repeatedly by a strong ecumenical flavour, with the leaders of other churches playing a full part in events.

The archbishop had talks with heads of state and heads of government in each place visited.

In Grenada he requested a visit to the prison where political detainees were being held, and spoke to all of them. Later he told the administration there that he was concerned about delays in ringing them to trial, and

according to Mr. Waite met a sympathetic response.

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Green chiefs: (from left) Christa Nickels, Waltraud Schoppe, Antje Vollmer (front), Annemarie Borgmann, Heidi Dana, Erika Hicke

Women sweep the board in Green party election

From Michael Binayon, Bonn

Three women have been elected to lead the West German Greens' parliamentary faction, but Frau Petra Kelly, one of the best-known figures in the movement, has been ousted from her post.

After a heated debate lasting eight hours the 27 members of the party elected Waltraud Schoppe, Antje Vollmer and Annemarie Borgmann to be the three joint speakers of the parliamentary group, and three other women to be the party's business managers. The

Greens thus become the first party to be headed entirely by women.

For the first year of their parliamentary existence the Greens were led by Frau Kelly, Marie-Luise Beck-Oberdorf and Otto Schily. But none was re-elected, and each was

strongly criticized for the personality clashes and political squabbles that have plagued the party recently.

Frau Kelly has come close to an open break with the party she helped to found, but has nevertheless remained a charismatic figure in the country

[illegible]

Did you know Central Government intends to take away your right to vote in the GLC elections?
SAY NO TO NO SAY.

China tells Vietnam to 'cease provocation'

Our Foreign Staff
Hanoi has told Vietnam to "cease provocative acts" along the common border immediately or Chinese forces will strike back, a Chinese Government spokesman said yesterday.

The Chinese Government has warned the Vietnamese authorities that they should immediately all provocative acts on the Chinese border. Otherwise they will be held responsible for the consequences, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters. "Our position is we will not attack unless we are attacked, and if we are attacked we will certainly counter-attack."

The accused Hanoi of creating trouble along the Sino-Vietnamese border to divert world attention from increased Vietnamese military activity in Cambodia and particularly along the frontier with Thailand.

The spokesman said China wanted friendship with Hanoi and had worked hard to safeguard peace and stability along the frontier. But Vietnam had recently launched a series of provocations along the border.

Meanwhile, Hanoi yesterday accused China of firing thousands of shells into Vietnam and demanded an immediate end to such acts.

In Bangkok, a Thai military spokesman said Thailand and Vietnam had moved up reinforcements yesterday.



Strike breakers: Security guards (left) tackle a union picket at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, and a showgirl fills in for striking resort workers by serving a drink to a tourist at the MGM Grand Hotel.

Poles on trial sent for cancer checks

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Polish defence lawyers yesterday appealed for the immediate release from prison of two women dissidents, including a leading human rights activist Miss Anna Walentynowicz, because they were seriously ill.

The presiding judge at the Katowice court ruled that the trial of the two women and a third defendant, Mr Kazimierz Switon, a union campaigner, should be adjourned for a day to allow tests to be carried out in a prison hospital.

Miss Walentynowicz, the defence counsel said was suffering from cancer. Miss Ewa

Tomaszewska was weakened by diabetes - an eyewitness at the trial said that she sat slumped throughout the hearing as if asleep - and Mr Switon had cancer-related problems.

Mr Switon has been allowed to live at home pending the trial, but the two women have been held in jail since they were arrested at a demonstration on December 4.

On that occasion, a group of some 30 Solidarity sympathizers - including 10 from the Gdansk shipyards and an early associate of Mr Lech Walesa, dismissed for her human rights campaigning, her reinstatement was one of the first demands of the strikers in July, 1980.

on December 13, 1981. Brandishing the plaque, they marched towards the perimeter fence, but a ring of riot police blocked their way and fights broke out.

The charges against the three - including incitement to public unrest and resisting arrest - arise out of that incident. They face possible jail terms of at least three years.

Miss Walentynowicz was for a long time a crane driver in the Gdansk shipyards and an early associate of Mr Lech Walesa. Dismissed for her human rights campaigning, her reinstatement was one of the first demands of the strikers in July, 1980.

After martial law she was interned without trial, but following her release continued her activities for Solidarity. She was arrested, released under amnesty, then re-arrested after the demonstration outside the Wujek mine.

Mr Switon was a founder of the Silesian free trades unions. A devout Catholic, he argued for a form of Christian democracy within Solidarity and has been involved in a number of protests against martial law.

The court will meet again today to decide how the illness of the defendants will affect the course of the trial.

Forced into exile 'by ambitious soldiers'

Ousted Honduran general absolves US of blame

From Martha Honey
San José, Costa Rica

The ousted Honduran military chief, General Gustavo Alvarez, said he had been forced into exile by disloyal and ambitious soldiers and did not believe the United States was behind his removal.

In his first public appearance since being deported to Costa Rica last Saturday, the general said he had not been plotting a coup against President Roberto Suazo Cordova and had not embezzled government money.

Looking tense but speaking with authority, he said he had been given warning twice by the Honduran Ambassador to Costa Rica that the Military High Command did not want him to make any public statement because he was still on active duty. The general snapped: "I give orders to my subordinates. I do not take them."

In setting the rules for the press conference, Costa Rica, which had received General Alvarez as a somewhat unwelcome guest, said he could not say anything "subversive" which might antagonize the Honduran or Nicaraguan governments.

As military chief, the general had facilitated the rapid build-up of US forces in Honduras, given free reign in the border region to anti-Sandinista guerrillas fighting the Nicaraguan Government and advocated

aggressive action against neighbouring Nicaragua.

Many diplomats here argue that the dramatic changes in Honduras could not have been effected without the knowledge and approval of America. They speculate that the US may have discovered that General Alvarez was plotting a coup and, to prevent a military takeover of the fragile civilian government, moved to avert it.

The general said he had been "violently" forced out of the country, although he denied that a gun had been held at his head. He explained that on Saturday morning he was taken prisoner by troops loyal to the

Air Force Commander, General Walter López Reyes. "I was captured by order of the Air Force," he said.

Asked if he thought the United States had a hand in his removal, he said: "I can only tell you that during my administration I had the best of relations with the US military. Only time will tell (but) I personally don't believe so."

He said the other ousted generals were removed arbitrarily from power by an illegitimate authority. "I am the constitutional chief of the armed forces and the only one who can order changes in the Honduran military structure."

Officer discontent led to shake-up

From Alan Tomlinson
Tegucigalpa

The abrupt removal from power of General Gustavo Alvarez and other heads of the Honduran armed forces was the product of a barracks coup by disgruntled fellow-officers, according to political sources close to the Army.

The civilian Government of President Roberto Suazo Cordova seized the opportunity to depict last Saturday's rebellion as the triumph of constitutional democracy over the powerful Honduran military, which until two years ago had ruled the country by one means or another since 1963.

But informed political sources believe it is unlikely that the President had any part in instigating General Alvarez's downfall, although it is unclear at what stage he threw in his hand with the mutineers.

US officials have been doing their utmost to assert President Suazo's responsibility for events, in order to reinforce the image of Honduras as a stable democracy worthy of becoming a model for Central America.

A senior US official said President Suazo was "fully appraised and advised" of the situation on Saturday, but Honduran observers insist this was only after General Alvarez had been arrested, forced to sign a prepared resignation, and flown into exile in Costa Rica.

Some sources say the President was presented with a fait accompli and given the choice of either taking advantage of the situation by assuming titular control of the armed forces under the provisions of the Constitution or joining the general in exile.

Diplomatic sources believe the conspirators would not have risked removing the general without seeking the President's prior approval since a coup without at least the appearance of constitutional legitimacy



could have cost them the full support of the US Government.

As it was, US officials were able to avoid embarrassment by asserting there had been no constitutional crisis or anything amounting to a coup, simply an internal restructuring of the Army.

However, at least seven other senior commanders closest to General Alvarez are understood to have been put under house arrest, including the Joint Chief of Staff, the Chief of Police, the head of army intelligence, the naval commander, the chief of land forces, and a former head of the secret police. Several have also signed resignations.

Informed Honduran sources said a group of about 20 brigades of the army, led by the Air Force commander General Walter López, moved against the general to preempt a purge of officers whose loyalty he suspected.

The principal cause of discontent with the general had been his departure from a tradition of consensus in the decision-making procedures of the armed forces in favour of his own autocratic brand of leadership, carried out through his closest aides, known as the Grupo de Iron.

US officials, who appeared to have been caught off balance by the unexpected rush of events, said they did not envisage any dramatic change of policy towards American plans

Peking assures Hongkong on Jardine's move

From Our Correspondent
Vienna

Jardine Matheson's decision to move its legal base from Hongkong to Bermuda was no reason to think that China would not guarantee Hongkong's future prosperity and stability, Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister, said in Vienna yesterday.

At a press conference at the end of a three-day trip to the Austrian capital, Mr Xueqian said that recent negotiations with Britain over the colony's future had been particularly hopeful and he characterized the British position as cooperative.

As long as Britain recognized that the issue of Hongkong's sovereignty was not negotiable there was no grounds for thinking that there would not be a speedy conclusion to the talks, he said.

UN on hand as Cocos Islands vote on status

From Tony Duboulin
Melbourne

A United Nations delegation of four has left Perth for the Cocos Islands to oversee a vote tomorrow by the largely Malay inhabitants of the Indian Ocean islands on their future status.

About 170 Cocos Island Malays and Mr and Mrs John Christie-Ross, descendants from the family that has ruled the islands since the 1830s, are eligible to vote.

The options in the referendum are independence, free association with Australia, or integration with Australia. The islanders are expected to vote for full integration.

Fifteen Australian officials will help to supervise or observe this act of free choice. They will include officials from the Department of Territories and Local Government.

Age and despair drive out the Pathan patriarch

From Hassan Akhtar
Islamabad

Perhaps the best known public figure in the north-west of the Indian subcontinent after Mahatma Gandhi, has left Pakistan for neighbouring Afghanistan, which often served as his second home.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, aged 95, ill with chronic arthritis, who led his Pathan people for more than 60 years, was warmly received on Sunday at the Torkham border post, about 30 miles from Peshawar, by Afghan soldiers and officials.

Successive Pakistan regimes treated the old Khan, affectionately called Sarbati (Frontier) Gandhi by his devotees, as a political outcast because the wisdom of establishing Pakistan, a state carved out of Moth India, he regarded partition as a creation of British imperialism.

Khan Ghaffar Khan was, in his own words, a pathetically disillusioned man. He spent most of his life behind bars or in exile. He decided to leave Pakistan because he said he had lost hope of ever leading the Pathans to retrieve their honour and dignity.

He was disappointed with his people - once regarded as the



Khan Ghaffar Khan: The Gandhi of the north-west.

most proud and gallant - because they had been corrupted by money and power. Like Gandhi, Khan Ghaffar Khan believed in non-violence and service to those regarded the "scum of the earth."

As hundreds of his tearful followers in Pakistan bade farewell to him at the border, Afghan soldiers greeted him with slogans. But it is doubtful that the aged Pathan leader will receive the same traditional respect and hospitality in Kabul which was often accorded to him before the Soviet military intervention.

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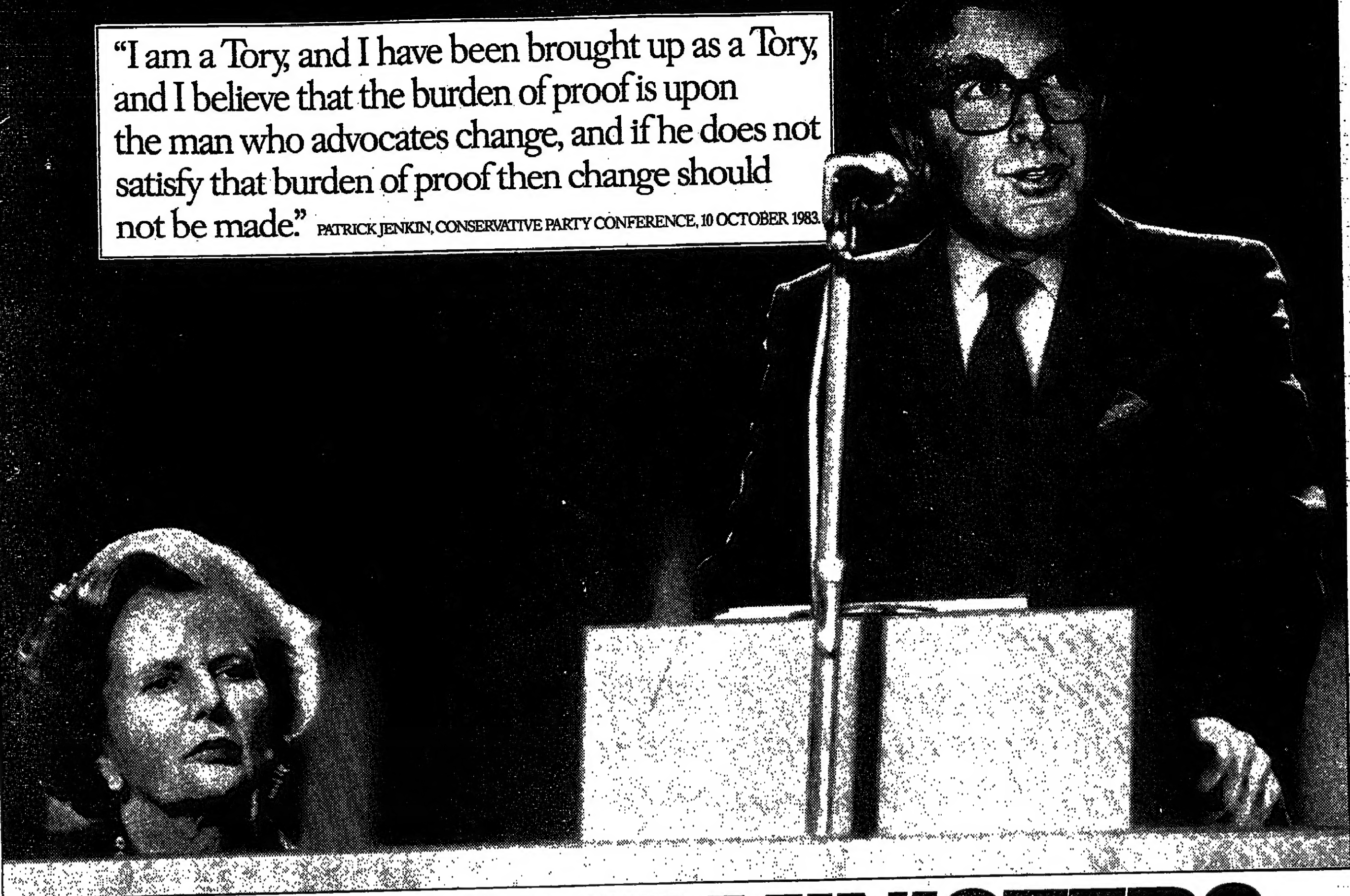
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"I am a Tory, and I have been brought up as a Tory, and I believe that the burden of proof is upon the man who advocates change, and if he does not satisfy that burden of proof then change should not be made." PATRICK JENKIN, CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE, 10 OCTOBER 1983



SHOULDN'T MINISTERS PRACTISE WHAT THEY PREACH?

As Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin tries to force through his proposed abolition of the metropolitan county councils, he seems to have forgotten the statement that he made at last year's Conservative Party Conference.

The fact is that the Government hasn't even attempted to prove the case for dismantling the metropolitan county councils.

Its White Paper, "Streamlining the Cities" is the blueprint for abolition. The architect is Mr Jenkin, who has not produced a shred of evidence, nor a single fact to support his proposals.

Originally, his main argument was that the metropolitan county councils were "a wasteful and unnecessary tier of government" which should be abolished as quickly as possible.

Mr Jenkin claimed that the abolition plans were "the most carefully thought out part of the Government's manifesto," and he was confident enough to predict "savings of up to £120 million a year."

However, the Minister's subsequent statements would indicate that the Government's whole thinking on abolition has been grossly inadequate.

Initially he promised: "If we don't achieve substantial savings when this exercise is completed, I shall have failed" (October 1983).

Then in November of the same year he claimed: "I do consider that savings of upwards of £100 million annually could be made, but that is no more than a broad estimate" (November 1983).

Five days later he announced: "I am beginning to recognise my wisdom in not plucking figures out

of the air, because had I done so I might have underestimated the savings that could be achieved" (November 1983).

He also said: "Savings will depend entirely on final, detailed decisions" of the successor authorities. (November 1983).

(One does wonder how he arrived at this conclusion when it is he who would control the budgets of the new joint boards which would inherit most of the metropolitan county councils' current expenditure).

Completing his shift of ground, the Minister declared: "Expenditure issues are not central to the case for abolition." (December 1983).

FLYING IN THE FACE OF FACT.

The truth, of course, is that abolition would cost, not save, the ratepayers' money.

Coopers and Lybrand Associates is a top independent management and financial consultancy (often used by the Government itself). They pronounced the case for change both "overstated and misleading." They also concluded that: "There are unlikely to be any net savings as a result of the Government's proposed changes, and there could be significant extra costs."

Surprisingly, Mr Jenkin claimed that their report supported his views, although Coopers and Lybrand made it clear that the transitional cost of re-organisation could be as high as £240 million. Which would mean ratepayers having to find up to £61 million more every year to pay for exactly the same services.

But it isn't just the financial arguments that are ringing in Mr Jenkin's ears. The Government has received responses from some 3,000 third parties, and criticism has come from groups of all political persuasions.

From commerce and industry, professional bodies, academic institutions and individuals.

Respondents have expressed major concern about the inevitable inefficiency of Mr Jenkin's proposed new local government structure, which they feel would quickly lead to a reduction in the levels and quality of services, as well as an increase in costs for providing them. Not to mention the elimination of direct accountability for these services.

Even those who have expressed some support for re-organisation, have warned that this further major upheaval should only be contemplated if there is a certainty of significant savings to the ratepayers.

In fact, it does appear that the majority say Mr Jenkin's proposals are wrong, either in whole or in part. Hardly surprising therefore, that the Minister has been reluctant to make public the views so widely expressed.

The metropolitan county councils do not claim that the present local government structure should be above change.

What they do claim however, is the right to a fair hearing, through a full and independent inquiry, to determine what changes might be beneficial.

How can Mr Jenkin disagree, when he believes that "the burden of proof is upon the man who advocates change."

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS OF GREATER MANCHESTER, MERSEYSIDE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, TYNE AND WEAR, WEST MIDLANDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE.
For further information write to The Chief Executive, G.M.C., County Hall, Manchester, M60 3HP

SPECTRUM

Rise of Labour's town hall realist

The Times Profile
David Blunkett

"The old left-right split is dead. It's young and old now, and youth has already won hands down."

On the face of it, an enthusiastic comment from a leading London proponent of the new, Kinnock-led Labour Party, unremarkable except that it was made by a former left-wing Campaign for Labour Party Democracy activist and Tony Benn campaigner. The remark referred to David Blunkett, the Sheffield city council leader who has risen, in the half year since Labour's "pick ourselves up off the ground" annual conference, to become a key figure on the party's national executive.

He has already succeeded in persuading the NEC to create a new full committee on local government, and been elected its first chairman. He is seen by weary partisans of right and left who have exhausted their will for fighting as one of the energetic young Turks whose task is to rebuild Labour's image before the next election.

Popular among constituency workers, who elected him as the first non-MP in the section on the NEC for more than 30 years, he is still recognized by the public only as the blind man who happens to lead the capital of South Yorkshire's red republic, and seems to have an annual engagement in Sir Robin Day's "Question Time". This lack of close public scrutiny has so far served him well, enabling him to ascend without being tainted by press opprobrium or making enemies in the national Labour offices. It has also concealed the vast difference between him and other high-profile Labour council leaders such as Ken Livingstone and Derek Hatton.

Blunkett's view of socialism is more deeply rooted in Methodism than in Marx. In municipal realism rather than in vanguard militancy, his mentors are not revolutionary theorists. Though he instituted a Karl Marx memorial lecture each year in Sheffield, his third son was christened Keir,

remark: "I'm afraid the dog's gone to sleep."

Council officers are daily infuriated by the hundreds of memos he dictates, each week and summarily dispatches by a secretary rich in tolerance. Yet visitors, from council tenants to company directors, are charmed by his disarmingly sensible persuasion, and often leave him wondering what complaint they had intended to make.

The astounding memory, commonly found among self-educated blind people is used in committee rooms to stun opponents, who, struggling to find a report paragraph, hear him quote it verbatim without touching the braille notes by his side. Prodigious preparation lies behind this sharpness. His wife Ruth, and secretary Valda, dictate ever-increasing numbers of documents on to tape, which he absorbs on the bus ride to his town hall office or the train

He will have to tell
unpalatable truths

to London, or on weekend walks in the Peak District. It is not widely known, however, even to close political colleagues, that he keeps a Crossman-like diary in which he notes his thoughts and happenings that interest him.

A team of officials, nicknamed "the politburo" by Sheffield's Tory opposition, and funded by the attendance allowances handed over by Blunkett and three other leading councillors, conduct his research. One of them, Geoff Green, was the main scribe behind the Fabian Society pamphlet published last year, *Building From the Bottom Up*, which outlined his core philosophy of community participation in politics.

He freely concedes admiration for Margaret Thatcher, ascribing to her a transformation of social values. His dream, however, is to reverse them, and commitment to that vision is the fountain of his platform popularity. As one London associate, who has come to know him only recently, put it: "David is going to have to tell some unpalatable home truths eventually, and the left will find that he is not so far off centre." In fact the blend of radicalism and traditionalism is so mercurial that he can swing either way.

Every policy he has is traceable to a rejection of the belief that the electorate is, at heart, apathetic and apolitical. He despises welfarism, the notion that people should be told and given what is good for them, which he considers has sapped the strength of Labour's appeal. This implies a belief that, social democracy is an innate impulse in the British soul, which needs only to be awakened by encouraging people to partake in deciding the course of their lives. It is, therefore, initially important that council tenants should have a say in what colour their doors are painted, because that will lead inexorably to their demanding a say in what their local council spends, and then what government spends, and finally, on what they spend it.

By turning everyone into effective activists he hopes they will be persuaded to nuclear unilateralism, worker control, and become convinced of the European Economic Community's uselessness. He is intensely critical of the trade union lack of democracy, but finds feminism a diversion.

His crucial test will come when, as figurehead of the group of Labour authorities who are fighting rate-cap-



Blunkett and Ted: pleading guilty to dogma

ping legislation through the Local Government Campaign Unit, he decides how to react to the limits set on the councils by Environment Minister Patrick Jenkin.

While continuing his verbal assault on the Government, Blunkett is most likely to argue for all the threatened councils collectively to offer a deal with it. One of his Sheffield colleagues said: "David has seen Liverpool, looked over the edge, and decided it's not for him. He couldn't articulate, because it hurts, but it is not his style - he must carry everyone with him."

In fact, he has a historical connexion with Derek Hatton, the militant leader at Liverpool. Mr Hatton was a community worker on the Kelvin flats in Sheffield when Blunkett was chairman of social services, and the chairman spent many hours fighting off demands by Roy Hattersley's councillor mother, Enid, that the rebellious social worker be sacked.

In focusing on primarily local government issues, Blunkett has avoided identifying with the personality battles in Labour's recent history, but will soon face some tough choices on who will become his allies. Although he supported the Tony Benn campaigners on party democracy, he will not work alongside established left-wingers like Eric Heffer, or Joan Maynard from his home city. On the NEC he works closely with the new soft left ascendants like Michael Meacher and Tom Sawyer of Nupe, but has long dissociated himself politically from right-wingers like Roy

Hattersley, who was brought up in Sheffield and often returns. Outside Parliament, his closest contact through the local government lobby is Margaret Hodge, leader of the left-wing Islington council. By being unassociated with partisan Bennisism, but firmly supportive of the Benn platforms on accountability, Mr Blunkett is well adapted to walk straight into the Kinnock camp.

Born on D-day anniversary, June 6, 1947, to parents who had re-married in their fifties, the boy's political education began with personal tragedy.

He married a girl
he met at chapel

His father was severely burnt in a gas explosion at work, and died after several weeks, aged 67.

His mother faced the bleak prospects of bringing up an already "awkward customer" (his own words), without compensation and on a widow's pension. The 13-year-old was sent to a boarding school for the blind near Shrewsbury where piano-tuning, lathe-turning, and office skills were the only options. He chose the third, learning Braille shorthand and studying at the local technical college for O-levels in his evening spare time. On returning to Sheffield, gas board officials, sympathetic over his father's death, gave him a dogsbody job, which he repaid by

becoming "the most naive shop steward imaginable". His employers, however, also enabled him to gain a national certificate in business studies on block release, and he continued evening classes to pass three A-levels and gain admission to Sheffield University to study politics.

He married the girl he met at his Methodist chapel as soon as she left school, and became the youngest-ever Sheffield councillor at 22. Estranged at university by his age, handicap, and distaste for the trivial concerns of his fellow students, he took little part in campus politics. He had gone there to study under the Orwell biographer Bernard Crick. Their views on the task ahead now for Labour are almost identical.

At 32 already one of the city's most experienced politicians, he became, four years ago, leader of the council, after having been elected chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' social services committee. "He

Taken a long way
by indomitability

may be young, but David has thought longer and harder than many politicians 20 years older than himself", is the judgment of one NEC member.

Though his skill in the delicate balancing act of holding together his local party is evident, the strain of leading two lives, one in London and the other at his home base, is beginning to tell. He finds it hard to delegate decisions, and relaxation almost unbearable. His wife, who is further left politically than her husband, often finds their annual cheap package sunshine holiday with their three sons (Tenerife this year) is a time to repair rifts that may have arisen. "Like most males, he thought he was not getting the attention he should", she once said.

His only short breaks in working time are with fellow councillors, taking long walks in the Lake District, or along Dorset beaches, and he occasionally finds time to lose himself in classical music, Delius being a favourite.

He sees his half-sister, Doreen who sat on the Social Democrats' steering committee in Sheffield when the party was founded, but rarely visits his three half-brothers. The death from cancer of his mother last year has left a deep scar.

Blunkett began our conversation last week by fighting shy of a *Times* profile - "The comrades won't like it" - adding that it would build up only one of many. He ended typically in the self-mocking vein of his reply to a "Question Time" audience member who asked whether politicians are motivated by integrity or dogma. Pointing to Ted, he answered: "I plead guilty to dogma."

One of his Sheffield friends, who accompanied him on a recent visit to Sheffield's twin city in China, An Shan, tells a favourite story with trepidation and admiration.

Blunkett was invited to climb the highest peak in the region, called Heaven by the locals. At the top the guide and translator let slip that the real summit was 10ft higher, on top of a round boulder perched on Heaven's brow, to be scaled only with the aid of a rope and notches cut in the rock.

Determined to settle for no less, Mr Blunkett insisted on scrambling up. There to be told: "Mr Blunkett, this is Heaven Above Heaven". Such indomitability has taken him a long way in a short time, and many Labour members placing their faith in his like will be anxious to ensure he does not lose his foothold.

Colin Hughes

moreover...
Miles Kington

Videos go
absolutely
berserk

Present thinking about videos seems to be bedevilled by the simple-minded attitude that a thing is either a video nasty or it isn't. But the real world doesn't work like that, and videos break down into dozens of different categories.

In the faint hope that it might lead to a more intelligent debate, I am today providing a list of the dozen or so basic video genres. I hope, of course, that they will all be banned, but one can't have everything.

Video Nasty. Any film in which more people die than were at the beginning. Examples are hardly necessary, but obvious ones are *The Black and Decker Atrocities*, *The Chain Saw Five go Absolutely Berserk in Cornwall*, and the *BBC Nine o'Clock News*. I have not seen any of these myself, but I gather they are more horrendous than anything available except *The World at War*, which I have seen and I hope we're on the same side as Japan next time.

Video Awful. Any foreign version of the above in which the subtitles are not quite legible, leaving the faint suspicion that it may in fact be rather a classy Japanese film, or an unknown Bunuel, or even the kind of thing that Clive James is collecting for his next edition of "This is Really Terrible. So Laugh When I Laugh".

Video Ghastly. Any tape which you thought was going to be an episode of *Jewel in the Crown* but turns out to be half a James Bond film because you pressed the wrong channel, and you watch it and you think it's not half bad, actually, so you might as well watch to the end, and then it suddenly fades into a snowstorm.

Video Softy. A tape compilation of the naughty bits from serious BBC serials.

Video Oldy. An illicitly taped old classic movie which was the greatest film in the world when you saw it, but unaccountably is now rather boring.

Video Trendy. An illicitly taped new movie which is unaccountably very boring now, but will no doubt be great in 20 years.

Video sporty. A recording of one of the great sporting events of modern times except anything featuring Torvill and Dean, which should be filed under Party Political Broadcasts. The level of violence varies considerably from sport to sport, and there is no room here to give a complete list, but a rough guide from 1 to 10 is as follows: Snooker 0, Darts 0, Football 3, Cricket 4, Wrestling 1, Boxing 8, Rugby 14, (NB Any British boxing films introduced by Harry Carpenter rate about 1½).

Monte video. A documentary seen on Channel 4 about a South American country. To qualify properly, it should have the following ingredients: 1. An interview with a cocoa leaf farmer; 2. A portrait of a senator at risk; 3. All dialogue in Spanish, with despairing subtitles; 4. Some wildly exciting music; 5. A visit to a guerrilla encampment.

Video Hasty. A recording of a favourite programme which contains more of other programmes at the beginning and end than it does of the programme in question. It should contain at least a quarter of an hour of Russell Harty or *What the Papers Say*.

Video draggy. A particularly vicious kind of film in which all the participants are genuinely dragged up to the eyeballs and then have to beat each other physically. Example: any emission from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Video Nobody. Any recording of a chat show you come across, in which you recognize neither the host nor any of the guests. Also Russell Harty.

Video Hammy. A TV drama recording which you taped because the *Radio Times* promised a scathing look at today's society. Also *Play for Today*.

Video Funny. A tape which your best drags out and insists on "playing" for you because it's screamingly funny and they'd love to see it again and you pray in your heart that it's not going to be *Five Go a Bit Bigger in Dorset* again.

Video Shorty. The greatest threat of all to the art of broadcasting, this is the videotape of an otherwise perfectly ordinary IBA transmission from which all the commercials have been removed.

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 310)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

ACROSS
1 Fruit basket (6)
2 Subsidiary rules (6)
3 Adam's partner (3)
4 Ligament wrench (6)
5 Ruined (6)
6 Worry (4)
7 Savoury dish (8)
8 Provencal fish soup (13)
9 Fly near ground (8)
10 Flying frame (4)
11 Violent confusion (6)
12 Standing letter (6)
13 Silly fool (3)
14 Distinctive phrase (4)
15 Intermediate (6)
16 SOLUTION To No 309
17 Falsehood (4)
18 Litter (4)
19 Reducer (4)
20 Subplot (4)
21 Tojo (4)
22 Ferret (4)
23 Reveal (4)
24 Judo (4)
25 Mandatory (4)
26 Twins (4)
27 Scarf (4)
28 Laine (4)
29 Ruche (4)
30 Lover (4)
31 Esile (4)
32 Number (4)
33 Wasp (4)
34 Ennui (4)
35 Event (4)

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Banking on the book trades bunkum factor

New York. Some critics think Robert Ludlum one of the worst novelists in history. He also happens to be among the biggest selling in the world. His twelfth novel, *The Aquitaine Progression*, has just been published and in spite of some terrible reviews, it has shot to the top of the best seller lists.

In the past three weeks a record 600,000 hardback copies have been sold in America, making it one of the most successful book launches ever. In Britain more than 150,000 hardback copies have been sold to shops and book clubs - another record launch. In the past 15 years Ludlum has sold 40 million novels in 23 languages.

One New York magazine last week castigated his new book: "Ludlum remains pretty much what he was 15 years back: a no-frills, no nonsense keyboard thumper who clearly couldn't care less about imagery, diction, cadence or syntax. If there is a wrong word, an inert word, he will nearly always find it. Ludlum and language are by now on such bad terms, in fact, that he seems out to punish every sentence."

The criticism does not upset Ludlum. "It doesn't bother me", he told me last week. "Sure, everybody wants approval, but I came from the theatre and I've always treasured a remark from there which goes 'For every six people who love you there will be half a dozen who loathe you'". Ludlum is more interested in sales than critics, for he also believes: "The quality of an author's work is not usually determined until after his death. Dickens got some pretty bad reviews."

So what is the secret of his success? His English publishers are quite clear. "He tells marvellous stories that people want to read." His agent in the United States, Henry Morrison, agrees: "His books have a tremendous amount of electricity and theatricality about them." Mario Puzo, author of *The Godfather*, is equally certain: "Ludlum is an ingenious storyteller with a wonderful and convincing imagination."

The public is in no doubt. His byzantine tales of spies and world intrigue - where there is always a danger to civilization and where his heroes are always the pawns of presidents - race off the bookshelves. He was the first author to twice top the hard cover and the paperback best seller lists at the same time. When his new novel goes into paperback in the United States next year, the publishers are predicting a print run of three million copies.

Ludlum's imagination has created what many intelligence experts find intensely believable scenes of espionage, which has convinced many that he must have been a spy himself. He steadfastly denies it: "William Stephenson once said 'All intelligence work is an extension of the imagination'. That is exactly what I have done, extended my imagination. I am not, nor have I ever been, a member of the intelligence community."

Ludlum's diabolic and tortuous plots reflect what he calls "my little paranoia" about "excesses of power all over the world". One former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Admiral Stanfield Turner, admits that Ludlum's *The Bourne Identity* is his favourite spy novel,



Ludlum and language: on bad terms

although he adds, "Life in the spy world isn't as risky in life as it is in his books. You don't dodge all those bullets."

Ludlum is a stocky, broad-faced man of 56, who looks like a retired San Francisco police detective. More from the cast of *Hill Street Blues*, than a CIA operative. He started out as an actor. After a fine arts degree he appeared in eight Broadway shows and about 200 television films, usually as a lawyer or a heavy who was killed. There was also a steady supply of voice-over work for commercials, and a period in production.

But at 40 he decided to give up to write. "I didn't so much burn my bridges as blow them up", he says. "I had been doing something for 18 years which I realized that I didn't

like". Although he had a wife and three children, he took a year off and wrote a novel based on an idea he found in an old copy of the *Illustrated London News*. Many novelists consider themselves lucky to sell 5,000 copies of their first novel in hard covers, but Ludlum sold 75,000 of the *Scarlett Inheritance*. That novel has since sold five million copies world wide.

"I was the most stunned, astonished, and grateful man alive when I realized I would be able to make a living as a writer", he says and his modesty seems genuine. "He is, disarmingly, balanced, unassuming and relaxed. 'I'm glad to say, writer's block for me is 11 minutes', he said.

He attributes his sanity to his wife, Mary, who was also an actress, and who reads all his manuscripts in typewritten and suggests changes. "When she starts by saying 'This is terrific', he says 'I know the next word is going to be 'but...' and I'm going to make a change'."

Although his novels have made him a multi-millionaire, he has not moved house or sought out a tax haven. He lives in Connecticut in the summer and Florida in the winter. "Nothing in my life has changed. I am doing exactly what I was before, except maybe travelling a little more". He has no intention of stopping work, even though he could easily afford to retire. "Why should I stop? I love it. Besides, I can still remember my unemployment number from when I was an actor."

Geoffrey Wansell

The *Aquitaine Progression* by Robert Ludlum is published by Granada, price £8.95.

سكزامن الأصل

BOOKS

Foul play and blurred vision at TV-am

Treachery?

The Power Struggle at TV-am

By Michael Leapman

(Allen & Unwin, £8.50)

"History will expose those who have been most treacherous," said Anna Ford to the reporters and television crews assembled for a little harmful cannibalism at TV-am's embattled studios on March 18, 1983. History, if it bothers, will have to wait until time outdistances the libel laws by which time the judgment won't matter.

Mr Leapman is certainly constrained here and one is left to draw conclusions about foul play at Camden Lock. He says his book is not about television, just a "classic cloak-and-dagger boardroom drama". But it is about television also and how the IBA, plumping to do something different, came to award a franchise to a consortium that had faces, fine phrases, and misplaced confidence, but little business competence.

This is a regurgitative little book, reflecting in its somewhat repetitive and occasionally purple prose style that feverish excitement the media has in its own affairs and judges the public to share.

More often than not I suspect they are incredulous about what goes on and how much people get paid for being involved. They might wonder here at the sagacity of investors who surely must learn to assess strange businesses, in becoming involved in a company whose principal asset, "the famous five", were to work only six months of the year, two receiving £112,500 each for it.

Mr Leapman's book relies heavily "on interviews with most of its leading characters". Some wished for anonymity and he conferred it on all: a pity because it is always interesting to know who has not only wisdom after the event but courage, too.

Certainly, Mr Peter Jay had it. Honestly, too. In his *Dénouement*, which is coy, Mr. Leapman says that the question is who pushed Mr. Jay and was it treachery. He doesn't answer, but considers rather the responsibility for programme failure, and is inclined to accept Mr. Jay's shouldering of the blame in a letter to this newspaper, and look no further. That seems to overlook the possibility that had Mr. Jay's qualities been reciprocated early on things might just have been different.

Dennis Hackett



Jubilee for seasoned traveller...

English Journey

Or The Road to Milton Keynes

By Beryl Bainbridge

(Duckworth/BBC, £7.95)

English Journey

By J. B. Priestly

(Heinemann, £12.95)

Beryl Bainbridge's journey did not begin too smoothly. Marooned in her taxi in Trafalgar Square while columns of Old Soldiers marched slowly from St Martin-in-the-Fields towards the Mall, she was late at Waterloo for the Southampton train. No porters. Smoking carriages - they would be - the farthest from the barrier. Train door

Fiona MacCarthy reviews itinerant hacks

Around England with rucksack and typewriter

would not open (she is bad at technicalities), so famous novelist, beginning to get frantic, banged her forehead against the outside window, starting to shout. People inside feared the worst and looked away, a bit embarrassed. After that she spent the train-ride in retreat, with Sunday papers. For all she knew, she tells us, she may have passed through the most beautiful country in England.

To that time-honoured body of itinerant writers, people who set out to travel England with their rucksacks, firm with their handshakes, receptive of mien, Beryl Bainbridge with her handbag, a professional stay-at-home who tells *Who's Who* her recreation is sleeping, is a recruit of a wonderful unlikelyness. A choice bizarre indeed to retrace the route around England - up the west side via Bristol to Manchester and Liverpool, cutting over the Blackburn to the Tyne, back by Lincoln and Norwich towards home and Highgate - taken by J. B. Priestly 50 years ago in his classic *English Journey*.

Beryl Bainbridge is a marvellous writer, tight and spare and yet with her own peculiar exuberance. But she is not, it must be said (and she would say it herself, no hesitation), altogether convincing as a traveller. She will not quite abide by the rules of English journeying. For instance, unlike Priestly who had found someone to talk to in his railway carriage before the train reached Cambridge, Beryl Bainbridge - admittedly hampered by the presence of the BBC TV film crew which travelled with her - finds it very very difficult to strike up conversations, as

one is supposed to, with sundry English citizens. She, or else her quarry, is always far too furtive. That's my business," said the very old lady in the coffee shop in Liverpool, entering a cream slice topped with cherries, when Beryl Bainbridge started to talk about the past.

English journeyers are meant to go and look around cathedrals. But Beryl Bainbridge, in her guise of ignorant, claims to know little of architecture, and to dislike art and really only makes for churches to have smokes in (using her coat pocket as a messy mobile ashtray). English journeyers are also, if they know their job, supposed to take an interest in local food and sample things like chitterlings; but the lady author, playing the forthright anti-gourmet, insists in dining at the Kentucky Fried Chicken where by mistake she sprinkles sugar on her chips.

The Beryl Bainbridge show is fast and zany and amusing, an updated version of *The Knack*, witty Rita Tushingham, but it is, I think, a bit of a cheat and an evasion. English journeyers are meant to be confronting modern Britain, ruminating on contemporary problems, maybe even, finally, offering solutions. Beryl Bainbridge, who dislikes modern Britain quite acutely, spends much of her Journey skulking up in her hotel room, and the best of this book - the chapters on her gloomy and romantic upbringing in Liverpool where, as a trainee actress, she once played Ptolemy in *Caesar and Cleopatra* at the Playhouse - would surely have lost little of its impact had she actually written it at home in bed.



... Mrs. Average fifty years on

Feeling that exhaustion which besets you after travelling for miles with an intelligent but very wayward child, I reached with some relief for the amply illustrated edition of the original J. B. Priestley *Journey* illustrated superbly with a new collection of 1930s photographs. It is terribly old-fashioned, being serious and sonorous, but read it. It stands up still quite astonishingly well.

It's clever, but is it art, or the arts industry?

The Culture Club

Crisis in the Arts

By Bryan Appleyard

(Faber, £2.95)

The Culture Club is an ambitious piece of polemic that sets out to unravel the confused ideas of art, society, value, and profit that underlie the current debate about arts subsidy and arts planning. If it is good to subsidize these activities, who is it good for - artists or audiences, or some vague "quality of national life"?

Both the Soft Left and the Hard Right are interested in arts expenditure. The free marketers have come to see that the Arts can represent considerable turnover of profits, export markets, employment prospects. The Soft Left, amongst whom Appleyard includes most

of the arts "mandarins" he entertainingly interviews, believe in Art as some kind of necessary social benefit, like housing, health, or freedom from pollution.

Whether, or how, it actually does this is in fact dubious. Subsidizing art on behalf of democratic enlightenment tends in practice to privilege art, which can be seen to be concerned with democratic enlightenment. This can be either art with a clear politico-social "message" - the steady stream of "condition of England" plays - or mass artistic behaviour. In the 1960s the bounds between "art" and daily life became blurred - everything was art, clothes, pop music, happenings, Love-ins, Laugh-ins, carnivals. ... The 1970s art crisis brought a new grimness to the general assumptions of benevolence, openness, plu-

rality, progress, community, in which Lord Goodman's Arts Council had benignly flourished.

Great art in our time, Appleyard argues, is precisely not amenable to this social and go-gooding manipulation. Great art is modernism and its heritage, and modernism is particularly concerned with matters of form, peculiarly self-referring. He quotes T. S. Eliot, "Culture is one thing we cannot deliberately aim at," and Sir William Rees-Mogg, "What we can't do is say we want to have great art and get it." His example of modern great art is Beckett, musing on the lack of anything to express, the lack of power to express, and of the desire to express, together with the obligation to express. (He might have included the joyful vision of Western and primitive

culture, or Pound's great poetic recapitulation of the voices of our layered past, as well as this minimalist anxiety.)

"Private, individual delight and a profound uselessness" are fundamental to the nature of all art, says Bryan Appleyard. He is ambivalent in his attitude to modernism, whether in the form of Joyce's remote nailing-pointing novelist or the didactic impositions of modernist architecture which "presupposed a heroic architect, a visionary with the will to impose his sensibility on the real world", but in practice produced human disasters as well as beauty.

What he thinks we should do is not entirely clear. He considers the arts industry to be complacent and suffering, despite its plights, from a kind of obesity. His mandarins "find it difficult to come to conclusions

on artistic matters", and are concerned with function and financial fact and strategy, not with questions of value or "too exclusive a vision". He contrasts Isaiah Berlin's individualist view, "Advances in the arts are brought about by, at most, handfuls of individuals. I really do not think 'the national will' plays any part in this sphere." Mr Appleyard's brief, dense and complicated book does not endorse this vision wholly but prefers it to a vision of the arts, rather as egalitarian welfare or subsumed namelessly in the "leisure industry". It is written in the thick of our philosophical, cultural, political and historical muddle and offers us some clear insights into this muddle. It is not in the nature of such writing to resolve it.

A. S. Byatt

Isabel Raphael reviews the fiction of the week

And there the antick sits...

The Suburbs of Hell

By Randolph Stow

(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

Behaving Badly

By Catherine Heath

(Cape, £7.95)

Scorched Earth

By Edward Fenton

(Sinclair Brown, £7.95)

Bolt the doors and draw the curtains close: Randolph Stow has a chilling tale to tell, cold as the fenland country where it is set. The contemporary-sounding title comes in fact from *The Duchess of Malfi*, and the book, for all its contemporary setting, is as grim a memento mori as the skull on the desk of a Renaissance prince.

The little town of Tornwich has seen better days. Now its lanes are full of empty houses, and only its seedy pubs offer a ghost of warmth to its lonely inhabitants. Each seems in some way bereaved: the schoolmaster abandoned by his wife; the widowed Commander, Black Sam, whose mother has returned to Antigua; and Ena, who lost husband and son in the war, living in symbolic isolation in a lighthouse. There may be larks and anemones in the woods outside the town, but for the people of Tornwich there is no spring. All they have to hold on to is life, and inexorably, implacably, Death claims them one by one. Nobody is immune from suspicion, not even big-hearted Harry who presides benevolently over this skeleton community.

Who is the Tornwich Monster? Who is to pay for this string of crimes? Are they connected with the other sinister themes of madness and drugs, blackmail and racism that run tantalizingly through the book, or are they simply as cold-blooded as the Jacobean quotations that precede each violent end? And who can the murderer be who whispers to us so knowingly, unless he be the grim reaper himself?

Randolph Stow keeps up the tension to the very end, deftly laying false trails and marvelously conjuring up the character and atmosphere of East Anglia. This is compelling and haunting writing, and there is no neat conclusion offered to neutralize death's sting.

Behaving Badly

By Catherine Heath

(Cape, £7.95)

Behaving Badly by Catherine Heath may suffer by coming out after Fay Weldon's much acclaimed *Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, in that both have a similar theme. In each a respectable married woman refuses to accept rejection in a decent, compliant way and sets out to create chaos instead. But there the likeness ends. Whereas Fay Weldon's heroine is a woman scorned, whose fury is channelled into calculated and self-basing revenge, Catherine Heath's Bridget has merely been shelved. Indeed, she has spent five dreary years trying to accustom herself to her lot, reminding herself, "One must behave."

This is not easy with Frieda, her dotty and irrepressible Jewish mother-in-law, providing a running commentary by telephone from Hampstead on the love-life of her ex-husband and with her own thoughts constantly turning to her self-sufficient daughter flat-sharing in Battersea. A bizarre chance occurrence jolts Bridget into a new awareness of herself and she surges back into life - their lives, first of all and then into worlds undreamed of in her time in years Bridget begins to enjoy herself, impervious to the discomfiture of her family. After all, it is they who have put her into the position where she has only herself to please. Why should she behave?

Here is an exceptional novel, brisk and unsentimental, touching and subtly romantic. It is also very funny. Catherine Heath understands the genuine affection behind family ties, as well as the ludicrously awful dilemmas of middle age, and looks on middle-class pretensions with a sharp but tolerant eye. Her style is as poised and cool and her dialogue as artfully artless as that of Barbara Pym, and there is no higher praise in novels of this kind.

The main thing to be said about Edward Fenton, who has won the Sinclair Prize for fiction with *Scorched Earth*, is that he writes remarkably well, with rare fluency and assurance. I wish he had found something more inspiring to write about. The plight of London's young unemployed, should arouse interest and perhaps compassion, but my withers were unwrung by Dan, Chris, Ratfacc and Sue whose energy, mental and physical, seems sapped more by marijuana than by an indifferent society. Their indignation carries them no farther than spray-paint graffiti and

National monument

Winston Churchill By Piers Brendon

(Secker & Warburg, £9.95)

Charles de Gaulle By Don Cook

(Secker & Warburg, £15)

When Virginia Cowles before the war told Churchill she intended to write a book about him he said "Oh, you're not going to plough that well-furrowed field again are you?" Books about Churchill abound in all shapes and sizes, some of the more notable written by himself. It was with a slightly weary eye that I picked up this one: it is a better read than I expected.

The epic is made short but it has the flavour of the man right. Most of the stories are familiar but worth repeating. The book is peppered with well chosen quotations not always attributed to their author. I wouldn't have minded an acknowledgement to me of the phrase "an ancient monument during his own lifetime" from an article I wrote in *Encounter* while Churchill was still Prime Minister; however I must be grateful for my name being attached to another observation.

Mr Brendon sails merrily along without sycophancy and with some shrewdness. He does not belittle Churchill but illustrates the faults that all great men have, unforgivable in others but not in them once they have achieved greatness. It is on the way up that their often arrogant behaviour excites hostility.

Churchill was vain, and abnormally self-centred, a nuisance to those surrounding him from whom he demanded constant manual service. From boyhood he knew he was to be a man of destiny but had difficulty in persuading others that this was so. Mr Brendon is funny about Churchill's biography of the great Duke of Marlborough. He began to write it before the research started. It was really another Winston autobiography in which the hero's vices were turned into virtues.

Occasionally Mr Brendon is slightly offbeat. He writes of Churchill "turning" "on his former friends behind the Iron Curtain" at Fulton in 1946. Unlike the glibble Roosevelt, Churchill never believed Stalin had given up imperialist communism, a view confirmed, in February 1945 when Stalin replaced, contrary to agreements with Churchill and Roosevelt, the all party Romanian government with a Communist government imposed by Soviet tanks.

Nor did Churchill, as Mr

Brendon thinks, approve Eden's Suez adventure, counting it folly to invade Egypt without consulting the Americans. But, small blemishes apart, a reader who does not want to know too much about Churchill can safely begin here. He may be surprised to learn of the contempt which Noel Coward had for our national hero.

De Gaulle regarded Churchill as his enemy. Actually it was Roosevelt who was his enemy and Churchill risked breaches with Roosevelt by making frequent requests that de Gaulle should be given the status of the head of the provisional government of France. Roosevelt, ignorant about European politics, preferred to toy with Vichyites and lesser men like Girault.

Mr Don Cook has written a first-class and comprehensive biography. De Gaulle reminds me of Linnaeus. Both had few cards but their obstinacy and pride. Both were hideous bores to many who had to deal with them. They were opposition down by insisting on their national rights, refusing to discuss details and demanding recognition of "L'Etat c'est moi".

Though perhaps de Gaulle overdid it when he ordered his 170 French liaison officers not to embark for Normandy with the allied forces because he was dissatisfied with the arrangements for his broadcast to tell the French that their liberation was at hand. It is a comfort to read that on arrival in France de Gaulle was just as bloody to the French as he had been to his British and American allies.

Nor did he give a damn for Stalin who encountered the great "Nos" in Moscow for the first time in December 1944. Annoyed by Stalin's draft for a Franco-Russian Treaty, which included recognition of the Communists as the government of Poland, he departed early from an elaborate entertainment given him by Stalin saying further negotiations were useless and he would be leaving early in the morning. In the middle of the night Stalin changed the draft.

Churchill was a clubbable man, de Gaulle was not. To have lunch with de Gaulle was a grim ordeal: the food and wine were sparse and ordinary and the conversation austere and terrifying. But he too was great, restoring order and pride to France and making a sensible constitution which has lasted. And he had a touching side. Devoted to his mentally retarded daughter, who died at 19, de Gaulle took his wife's hand at the burial saying, "Now she is like all the rest."

Woodrow Wyatt

Marcel Berlins commits the latest crimes

Blood and pinko whodunits

Murder in the Central Committee

By Manuel Vasquez

Montalban

(Pluto Press, £7.95)

October Heat

By Gordon DeMarco

(Pluto Press, £7.95)

Socialism has had a bad time of it in crime fiction. Characters of the political left who occasionally strayed into whodunit or police procedural were inevitably treated as either dangerous threats or deep exponents. Even the cynical school of American writers who, through their characters, questioned the values that promoted the greed and corruption they saw around them, seldom placed their criticism in any political context. Crime fiction has remained unquestioningly rooted in the western democratic societies that gave it birth, and the rules of the game reflect that framework. But is there anything inherently illogical with the concept of socialist - or, at least, politically and socially aware - crime fiction?

Pluto Press, publishers of serious left wing books, have inaugurated a crime list to prove that the two can mix, and

are holding a competition to try to unearth new whodunits augurs well for the genre.

The Central Committee of the title of Montalban's book is that of the Spanish Communist Party, and the victim is its general secretary. Ex-communist private detective Pepe Carvalho, master cook and proud Catalan, is hired to parallel the official police inquiry, conducted by a mistrusted right-winger. Memories of the Spanish Civil War, the struggle between Stalin and Euro-Communism, and Basque separatism all provide possible motives. Montalban has managed to write both an excellent political novel and a gripping old-fashioned whodunit.

October Heat's antecedents are equally traditional. It's a zippy thirties-style and thirties-set thriller that would not have disgraced Hammett. Riley Kovach meets the same kind of dames, hooded cops, losers, and double-crossers that Sam Spade used to know. But Riley has a socio-political conscience as well, which gets him beaten up very often. Against the background of a Californian gubernatorial election, Kovach uncovers a right wing assassination plot which he defuses with verve and wit. Fast, slick and intelligent.

Morbidity Symptoms

By Gill Slovo

(Philo Press, £6.95). Lift-shaft murder at African Economic Reports, left-leaning research body. Journalist heroine Kate, (ex-South African, feminist, saxophonist) drafted by her colleagues to meander through African exile politics in London and find the culprit. The quest strains reality, but some appealing descriptions of London life among young socialist third-worlders.

The Reckoning, by Georges Simenon (*Hamish Hamilton*, £7.95). First English translation of a 1948 short novel. *Le Bilan Malétras*. Well-off, dutifully married, and bored, Malétras becomes obsessed with vulgar waitress and kills her, without quite meaning to or knowing why. He escapes formal justice, but not, in the end, punishment. The oppressive tightness of provincial life, the moral ambiguity of desecrated relationships, and the welcome inevitability of retribution are depicted with matchless precision and sparseness. Archetypal, and therefore excellent. Simenon.

The Smooth Face of Evil, by Margaret Yorke (*Hutchinson*, £7.95). Delicate claustrophobic tale of loneliness and passion. Yorke has a special talent for portraying ordinary people out of their depth in ageing widow Alice, but has then to deal with scheming Sue. Subtle, slow to build, but ultimately compelling.

The Streetbird, by Janwillem van de Wetering (*Gollancz*, £7.95). More bizarre and murky Amsterdam stones upturned, to reveal witchcraft, pumping and murder among the city's black community. Adjutant Grijspra and Sergeant De Gier merge happily with the red lighting. Authentically sleazy and some sharp sociology, but the coppers of Amsterdam have now all taken to speaking in an elliptical shorthand that occasionally endangers the reader's attention.

The Open Door, Laurence Meynell (*Macmillan*, £6.95). The existence of Stella Brendon's over-heated lust-letters to a former lover threatens her future nuptials with prudish yvonne. Amusing, well-connected Soho sex-fly and private eye Hooky Hafferman is hired to recover them from oily black-mailer, but murder ensues.

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THE ARTS

Television
Account pointedly rendered

The Polite Conspiracy, on BBC2 last night, dealt with our tax system, charging that it makes the rich richer and accountants increase and multiply. It was likely to be a popular programme - the privileged watching to pick up tips; the under-privileged to enjoy a sense of grievance.

To demonstrate his points, the writer and presenter James Bellini, who is never inclined to reach for a scalpel when he can swing an axe, introduced a fictional well-heeled family, able to make the best out of the worst for themselves with expert aid.

Their individual cases were interspersed with expert comment. We saw management executives being instructed in "acceptable packages" - combinations of allowable benefits which can increase salaries by up to 30 per cent, and heard about that envied benefit, the company car. A leasing executive said companies spent £6,500 million a year on these and pointed out that any change would mean a vote to the manufacturers.

Mr Chris Pond, of the Low Pay Unit, said it was absurd to create a welfare system for the rich while cutting back on welfare for the poor. It seemed that accountants can burrow through the system like maggots through cheese, and the tax consultant Mr Lance Blackstone probably precipitated viewers to look for their tax codings by remarking that, on the Inland Revenue's own figures, 40 per cent of these were wrong.

Mr John Kay, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, seemed to exhortate governments for an "unfair and inefficient" system. "Nobody designed this system", he said. "Nobody in their right mind would design a system like this. It just grew up."

No attention was paid to the black economy - not a preserve of the transparently rich - and I do not think, as Mr Bellini does, that tax is not something we talk about or that communication in this area is invariably polite. But it was a diverting, if strongly opinionated, programme.

Dennis Hackett



Hugh Hudson: "I believe in Cinema"

Hugh Hudson, director of *Chariots of Fire*, has tackled the Tarzan myth, his *Greystoke* opening in London next week: interview by John Preston

The ultimate self-made man

Perched on the edge of an "acutely uncomfortable-looking" steel and leather deckchair, Hugh Hudson mutters nervously. "I just hope the public likes it. You never know these things, do you? Three years after he started work on the project and some 28 million dollars later, Hudson's *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes* finally opens in London next week. There is, he concedes, an awful lot at stake on the film. Not only the well-being of Warner Brothers, currently nursing another rather large hole in their finances, but also Hudson's reputation as a director. This may only be his second feature film, but, since the first was the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire*, expectations are riding particularly high.

Sticking closely to the first three Edgar Rice Burroughs Tarzan novels, Hudson has sought to get away from the built-in risibility of previous Tarzan films. Gone are the brilliant caricatures, the breast-beating yodels and the tree-house with the full range of mail-order accessories.

"I wanted to present the story as something that could perhaps have happened," he says. "I just found it very interesting to take this popular myth and treat it as realistically and differently as possible." Thus the jungle is - for the most part - the genuine Cameroonian article and, when the action shifts back to England, it unfolds against some of the most recent, opulent backdrops British architecture can muster. Realism may be at a premium but this after all is an unashamedly full-

blown epic. In or out of the wild, it comes in a determinedly lush packaging.

The project was first mooted seven years ago, the brainchild of Robert Towne, who wrote the script for *Chinatown* and became obsessed with the Tarzan story. But he also became hopelessly bogged down in his directorial debut, *Personal Best*, and sold off his script of *Greystoke* in order to raise money to finish off the film. There is still a good deal of Towne's script left in the finished *Greystoke*, although he did not wish to appear under his own name on the credits, choosing the pseudonym P. M. Vazak instead - "it's the name of his dog," admits Hudson sadly.

Hudson too was immediately smitten with the idea of trying to make a "plausible" Tarzan. "Burroughs is a pretty bad writer but he did create this extraordinary twentieth-century myth. It's like everyone's favourite childhood adventure. There seems to be a need for Tarzan. He is truly heroic. He's the sort of character anyone can identify with. He struggles and he survives and he won't be told what to do," Hudson muses, searching for the right phrase. His eyes light up. "That's what Tarzan is, he's the ultimate self-made man."

This vision of Tarzan as the figurehead of a free-market economy may excite some surprise, but Hudson clearly has a weakness for heroes, cast in a stout-hearted Edwardian mould. And, at 47, Hudson still has an ingenuous,

boyish air about him. An Old Etonian, he came out of the Army after National Service hoping to get into the film industry. But all doors stayed closed and so he opted for commercials instead. Nearly 20 years and a clutch of awards later, David Putnam finally gave him the chance to break into features with *Chariots*. "All the repressions I'd been holding back for so long suddenly came out," he says, "and that is partly why there is such a feeling of joyousness about the film."

Hudson happily refers to himself as "a grand romantic", and admits in an unguarded moment that "I don't really get near the truth". Holding his arms wide, he says "I believe in Cinema". And yet his is a peculiarly English form of populism: the desire to spin a cracking yarn while also providing something more substantial to chew on "if you want to look for it". Hudson talks earnestly and quite plausibly about the various subtextual strands in *Greystoke*: about ecology, fundamentalism and "nature versus nurture". But one suspects he is on firmer ground when he says, simply, "I've always wanted to be a story-teller, that's really what I am."

Greystoke was originally going to be produced by David Putnam. However, after six months when it became clear that the project was going to take up more time than he had bargained for, Putnam bowed out amicably and Hudson himself became co-producer. While the script was being finalized Hudson immersed himself in every study of

primates he could lay his hands on. Jane Goodall's account of her work with apes heading the list. Six months were spent teaching mime artists to conduct themselves in convincingly simian style and then, when shooting got under way, Hudson found himself confronted with "huge logistical problems".

Relations with Warners also came under strain. "I was getting an awful lot of fear and ignorance coming my way from Hollywood. They were obviously worried about how it was going to turn out. But fear can be infectious after a while. You start to doubt the film you are making and that can be very dangerous if you are not careful."

Originally scheduled to open at Christmas, *Greystoke* had to be postponed for three months. "That was my fault," says Hudson. "I underestimated the amount of time it would take to edit the film." The two months were not all of his own choosing. Hudson wanted to bring the film in at around 140 minutes. Warners insisted that he lose a further 10. Hudson reluctantly complied. "It seems to work as it is," he says cautiously.

Despite his adherence to the "grand style of film-making", Hudson seems well aware of the dangers of cultivating an epic mentality. "You mean how can I go and do a small film after this? Yes, it is a danger, definitely. I am very aware of it." He ponders for a moment and then adds: "I don't know if I want to avoid it, but I am certainly aware of it."

Rigoletto
Covent Garden

The Royal Opera House, possibly mindful of Dr Miller's alchemy over in St Martin's Lane, have had Verdi's *Rigoletto* out of the repertoire for six years. Seeing it after this interval is to go back into some operatic time-war. Lila de Nobili, who influenced a whole generation of set designers, has her Mantua looming darkly - and quite handsomely once outside the Duke's palace - and her structures still take an unconscionable time to move. Zeffirelli's warves, who used to huddle under Rigoletto's cloak, have gone off to find other employment, but the heavy

made up, broad and obvious of gesture, seems to have come from another age.

Milnes, surprisingly singing Rigoletto for the time at the Garden, has been an underrated baritone in Britain, partly his own fault because in a long career his appearances here have been few. The voice may not now have the cutting edge of a decade ago, but it is still a mighty instrument, well able to throw that final "Maledizione" out and up to the rafters. His jester is a broken bear of a man, his forehead furrowed with care - perhaps because he has not managed to make the court laugh for many a year. Vocally it remains an impressive performance, especially in Act II, but the old-fashioned feeling in Italian parson

Opera

Alida Ferrarini, a new name to London, is a pocket-sized soprano, especially when standing close to Milnes - whose voice might have been tailored for Gilda in its bell-like tones and girlish neatness of enunciation. There was a shade too much of the automaton Olympia during her first scene, despite an accomplished "Caro nome", but the personality grew with the evening. Return engagement, please.

Over the next few months Dennis O'Neill has a quantity of Dukes before him around the world and most are likely to be better than this one. Both the Duke's air songs went astray - vocally and it was not until Ella mi tu capiti that O'Neill showed his true voice. The

cabaletta indicated a lack of support to the voice. The acting, like most of that visible on stage, was perfunctory and left Zeffirelli's creation out of sight. Gwynne Howell's Sparafucile had a beacon-like brightness among the supporting roles, which were otherwise indifferently cast.

Edward Downes, who has long been associated with this opera, had a thoroughly miserable evening in the pit: leaden tempi, playing drained of emotion. Was this really an opera about execution, abduction, rape and assassination? With Verdi's irony. Was this the orchestra that played in *Capulet*? The audience

John Hughes

Theatre
Striking detail
The Great Celestial Cow
Royal Court

After the East Anglian women of Fen, Joint Stock turns to another socially beleaguered group: Asian mothers, daughters and wives. Same technique (composition through a workshop process) with a different result: a more lively, better controlled and more successful play.

The early episode that shows Sita (Sonia Faria) and her daughter and son-in-law, the Indian bride to join Sadya in Leicester, promises a rather different play, introducing a new element into the stage of a gruelling parade of Western hostility and ignorance in immigration lounge and fruit market. Thereafter the focus narrows on to their own community, whose favoured males (not excluding the adored her apparent in short trousers) maintain their proprietorial attitudes despite the move from rural compound to High Street Co-Op.

Women's work, apart from being exploited in a dress factory at £35 per week, is making chapattis as the master likes them, caring for kids and grannies and aunts into the third and fourth generation, and meek submission in the bedroom. Contaminating western notions of a woman's identity must be kept out - but, of course, cannot be.



In and out of roles: Lou Wakefield (left) and Feriza Syal with Dev Saxoo

While the Royal Court audience's tendency to treat the play as farce makes it hard to judge, Caroline Hayward's production sometimes loses control. The two main characters, Sita and Sadya, are played with a precision that is almost too precise, and the play's social commentary is often lost in the minutiae of the characters' lives.

But this free casting can blunt the effect: two Heathrow officials sweeping immigrants around are converted from telling caricature into comic turn, and despite Lou Wakefield's beautifully precise mimesse the Indian boy's stealthy westernization is masked by his regular appearance as an angelic English girl.

By an inspired stroke, it also clinches the idea of woman as cattle as well as chattel: Ms Syal sarcastically enumerating her selling points to an outraged prospective father-in-law is answered later by a market scene auctioning pedigree beauties with full udders, fine legs and good breeding prospects.

Ms Faria, who can make you feel anguish simply by widening her eyes, finds herself in mental hospital (the second wife in succession to do so at this theatre) while still waiting for a future that contains her longed-for equality and sense of self within the world she knows and loves.

Anthony Masters

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Never mind the fact that the music, in leading the symphony festival, "Mabry" Strauss, and the Philharmonia have managed to choose a location that is at once doubly grammatical, offensively educational in its connotations, and capable of being seen through by the suspicious as an attempt to pull the Webers over their eyes. Since Rattle's proposition in Monday's paper has more appeal, that the series is really about what happened to music after *Tristan*, but what it is in fact about, quite simply, is the outstanding performance of great music. Or so Tuesday's splendid opening concert encourages one to hope.

We began at the beginning, with a performance of the *Tristan* prelude so cogently sustained as to be faintly alarming, but alarming more in a moral than in an emotional way. Wagner's awesome legacy, Mr Rattle suggested, was an idea that defies the control we exercise over music when we can understand it in terms of some system. There are no easy answers to that initial phrase, only a long continuation which ought, of course, to last four hours but which here laid down a challenge that will be variously met within the concerts of the next two weeks.

First into the lists was Berg, and apply so, for Mr Rattle indicated without any perversion of the facts how the *D minor* Angio from *Peter and the Wolf* is just the beginning of the opera itself, like all great twentieth-century opera, it is a history of people who have lost that control over their thoughts and actions, the which, though they gave them a momentary escape, as it were, dropped from one's ears and

Concerts

though I have heard this music once, I cannot claim that I have heard it well. The *Tristan* prelude, while it is a masterpiece, is a masterpiece of the kind that is not to be heard but to be felt. The *Tristan* prelude, while it is a masterpiece, is a masterpiece of the kind that is not to be heard but to be felt. The *Tristan* prelude, while it is a masterpiece, is a masterpiece of the kind that is not to be heard but to be felt.

Paul Griffiths

EBS/Gardiner
St John's

Sometimes one feels like writing only a one-word review, and in this case the word would be "Yes". A few details may help. The second concert in the series, the project of recording all the Mozart piano concertos, is an eighteenth-century affair. It was a slightly messy, slightly unfinished, but none the worse for that, for this was playing from both pianist and the English Baroque Soloists that spring from a fresh, direct musical

Eastbourne last month. Alain Dubreuil gives a thoughtful, sensitive account of the title part, and Margaret Batten's presence as the ballerina's doll demonstrates how much the role gains from having a ballerina play it.

For the first London performance, David Bintley played the "old" showman, "another example of his ability in giving new understanding to a familiar character, this time by the significance he gave to the magician's trickery - making the flute appear "from nowhere" much more credibly than usual, and concentrating on mysterious aspects of the hands over the dead *Petrushka* before showing the crowd that he was only a doll.

The augmented orchestra was not at its best on this occasion (nor in Auber's music for *Les Rendez-vous* that preceded the *Stravinsky*). On stage, however,

Petrushka found the company performing as a cohesive, skilled team. Incidentally, when the Wells stage is entered, which cannot be too soon, it will still be possible to make to the sides of the proscenium, opening to retain the splendid intimate effect.

Rosamunda Act III, which ended this programme, really needs more space, to let its ensembles breathe and even to allow the solos to be danced with the expansiveness they need. However, the third solo was given with a pleasing fluency by Mandy Jayne and the male *pas de quatre* went with crisp vigour. Best of all was David Wall, returning to his old company from Covent Garden to dance Jean de Brienne because of David Ashmore's injury.

John Percival

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Council tenant entitled to raise *ultra vires* defence

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Winder

Before Lord Justice Ackner, Lord Justice Robert Goff and Lord Justice Parker

[Judgment delivered March 29]

It was not contrary to public policy or an abuse of the process of the court for a defendant in an action to rely on a defence which challenged the *vires* of public law decisions if the defence was founded on existing private law rights which were not dependent on those public law decisions and accordingly, the defendant was not required to proceed by way of judicial review.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Ackner dissenting) so held when allowing an appeal by the appellant, Mr Paul Winder, against the order of Judge White at Wandsworth County Court that certain paragraphs of the appellant's defence and the whole of his counterclaim be struck out as an abuse of the process of the court.

Mr John Matthew Bowyer for the appellant, Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the council.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER, dissenting, said that the council let one of their council flats to the appellant on a weekly tenancy in pursuance of their statutory obligation under the Housing Act 1957. The council in 1981 resolved to increase the rent and served the appellant with a notice of increase. The appellant objected to that increase because he considered it excessive and continued to pay the original rent.

The following year there was a further resolution by the council and a further notice of increase of rent was served on the appellant. Again he refused to pay the increase. A notice seeking possession was served on him followed by a claim in the county court claiming possession on the ground of failure to pay rent lawfully due.

The defendant denied that he owed any sums to the council contending that the council's decisions to make the increases were *ultra vires* and void and each of the notices was likewise *ultra vires* and void.

The council applied to strike out the defence and counterclaim on the ground that they were an abuse of the process of the court, relying on *O'Reilly v Mackman* (1983) 2 AC 237. The appellant contended that that decision only dealt with the initiation of proceedings and the rule of public policy which it declared did not apply to a defendant wishing to raise a defence involving a matter of public law.

The county court judge, on the council's appeal from the registrar's decision, held that there was no distinction to be drawn between the raising of an issue of public law by way of a claim or by way of defence, and allowed the appeal.

The appellant's contract of tenancy clearly gave him certain

private law rights against the council. He submitted that by his defence he was setting up private law rights. His Lordship did not agree.

The appellant accepted that the council had the statutory right to increase his rent. He had not, however, required the rent to be increased to the extent which the council resolved. That was the only foundation of his contention that the notices of increase of rent were *ultra vires* and void.

The appellant was accordingly not setting up any private law right. The resolutions which he was attacking were resolutions of a statutory body, pursuant to their statutory powers and duties, applicable to the rents of all or a particular category of council tenants, and affected the rights and liabilities of their ratepayers.

The appellant was thus clearly challenging a decision made by a public body performing its public functions in a field of public law. That was the limit of his challenge. If the appellant was setting up some private law right, that could not affect the reality of the situation that the essence of the dispute was the validity of the notices. The direct issue of public law then arose merely as one remove and was of no significance. See *Cocks v Thanet District Council* (1983) 2 AC 286 where the private law right set up was a right claimed under statute and the rule in *O'Reilly v Mackman* was nevertheless applied.

Did the principle of public policy declared by the House of Lords in *O'Reilly v Mackman* apply where the challenge was made by way of defence and, not by the initiation of proceedings? The decisions of the Lords, expressly or by necessary implication suggested that a challenge by way of defence to a claim by a public authority to enforce its decision in a field of public law amounted to an abuse of process.

The public policy requirement declared by Lord Diplock in *O'Reilly v Mackman* when expressed in positive terms was that a person seeking to establish that a decision of a public authority infringed rights to which he was entitled to protection under public law had to proceed by an application for an order for judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. If that was the correct statement of the principle, there was no warrant for distinguishing between methods adopted to establish the infringement.

The justification for the public policy as declared in *O'Reilly v Mackman* (at 280-281, 284) applied irrespective of the manner in which the challenge was made, be it by initiating an action, or by raising a defence.

As against those considerations, the appellant relied strongly on observations made by Lord Wilberforce in *Darby v Spitham Borough Council* (The Times October 18, 1983) (1983) 3 WLR 709, 743.

To confine the rule of public policy to challenges made by way of an ordinary action and to exclude those challenges made by defence was to strike at the very basis of the public policy rule itself, and inevitably create wholly unacceptable anomalies.

Lord Diplock fully recognized that the rule of public policy might on occasions have the effect that persons would lose their entitlement to the fruits of their private law rights if they failed to bring their claim to court by way of an ordinary action.

Finally, there was no substance in the complaint that to apply the public policy rule would give rise to multiplicity of proceedings. If the proper course was to apply under Order 53 there should be no need for the initiation of an action by the local authority and the necessity of a defence.

However, in the unusual situation where a defence had to be entered, the action was then simply stayed pending the outcome of the judicial review proceedings. If they failed, there was no defence to the claim; if they succeeded then the claim failed and the only issue that might arise was if there was a counterclaim to recover money already paid.

The principle of public policy as decided in *O'Reilly v Mackman* constrained his Lordship to decide that the appellant's challenge of the council's decision to increase his rent by the entry of a defence to the claim was an abuse of the process of the court. Accordingly, his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the county court judge had been invited to draw a distinction between claims and defences and to hold that whereas a claim in which a public law decision was challenged had to be made by an application for judicial review, nevertheless a defence which raised such a challenge did not require such application to be made.

The solution to the problem did not lie in drawing any such distinction. The council were claiming possession of a council flat and arrears of rent. The appellant's case was that he was not in arrears and so the council were not entitled to possession.

At the heart of the dispute lay the appellant's challenge to the *vires* of the decisions of the council authorizing two notices of increase of rent. The appellant's case was that he had never been under any obligation to pay more than the previously established rent.

The central issue in the case related to the validity of the decisions made by a public authority which affected not only the appellant but many, if not most of those who lived in the borough of

Wandsworth. A decision on the issue would affect the appellant's private law rights.

The council submitted that the public interest in good administration was so strong that every challenge to a decision of a public authority had to be made within the procedure established by Order 53.

The appellant, however, submitted that his private law rights could not be affected by the procedural changes brought into effect by Order 53.

O'Reilly v Mackman was not concerned with private law rights. The House of Lords did not address itself to the question whether a citizen's invocation of the ordinary procedure of the courts to enforce his private law rights by way of defence in an action brought against him, could amount to an abuse of the process of the court.

It did not follow that there was an abuse of process by a citizen in invoking the assistance of the ordinary courts by action or by defence, in order to enforce or to claim protection of his private law rights.

If it was thought that any limit should be placed upon citizens proceeding in this way in the interests of good administration, that was a matter for Parliament. For those reasons, the appeal would be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER, agreeing, said that if the council's argument was correct it would appear that, by way of provisions which were essentially procedural, a person's substantive rights under the law had been vitally affected.

It was to be observed that in *Cocks v Thanet District Council* the existence of the private right depended upon a public law decision in the plaintiff's favour first being made, whereas in the present case the appellant had an existing private law right which required for its alteration either a contractual

variation of rent or a valid public law decision followed by the necessarily prescribed steps to implement it.

It was not an abuse of process to raise his challenge by way of defence. He had attacked not only the rent itself but the decision making process and it was plain that had he desired himself to initiate such a challenge his proper course would have been to do so under Order 53. But that made no difference. The appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Mr Michael Radnecy, Wandsworth; Mrs S. G. Smith, Wandsworth.

Counsel's duty to apply for three judges

Lord Justice Ackner commented on March 29 at the conclusion of the appeal that - but for judicial intervention, the case would have been heard by a two-judge court. A third judge had been added to the Court of Appeal because Lord Justice Robert Goff and his Lordship considered the appeal clearly raised matters of general importance of some complexity and was one upon which there could well be a difference of judicial opinion.

The Master of the Rolls had pointed out in *Practice Note Court of Appeal: New Procedure* (1982) 1 WLR 1312, 1318 that where an appeal fell within the jurisdiction of a two-judge court, but raised issues of such complexity or general importance that a three-judge court was desirable, the parties should apply to the Registrar for a special listing before a three-judge court - an application which needed to be made with discretion.

It appeared that the entitlement to make such an application was being overlooked by the Bar. It was to be hoped that in future, counsel at an early stage, preferably when settling the notice of appeal would give special consideration to the question, and where appropriate make the necessary application.

Those observations were not intended to encourage applications which did not come within the practice direction. However, it should not be left to the judiciary to take the initiative, not only because they did not always have an opportunity to read the papers sufficiently well in advance of the hearing to be able to add in time a third judge, but also because the complexities and/or importance of the appeal, while well known to counsel, might not be apparent on a first reading of the papers.

Mr Justice Balcombe, on ratifying a decision taken by Lambeth London Borough Council to consent to an abortion on a 16-year-old ward in their care, said in the Family Division on April 2 that it must be made clear to all social workers that no major decision concerning a ward of court could be taken without the leave of the court. An application could be made to a

judge sitting in the Family Division at extremely short notice.

A termination of pregnancy was a major decision which required the approval of the court. The question had been in the best interests of the ward in the present case but there had been a certain lack of liaison between departments at Lambeth.

It was imperative that all local authorities should be aware that no major decision concerning wards who were in care could be taken without the leave of the court.

Solicitors: Victor Mischon & Co, Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Inferring identity of person charged

Allen and Others v Ireland

Before Lord Justice Kerr and Mr Justice Nolan

[Judgment delivered April 3]

A magistrate could take judicial notice of the ordinary processes of arrest, charge and bail within his jurisdiction so as to raise at least a *prima facie* case that a person who surrendered to bail and answered to the name laid in the charge was the same person as the person who had been arrested, charged and bailed, although of course that inference was rebuttable.

Further, the court was entitled to hold in a charge relating to threatening behaviour contrary to section 5(a) of the Public Order Act 1936, as amended by section 7 of the Race Relations Act 1965 and Schedule 1 to the Criminal Law Act 1977, that there was a case to answer although there was no evidence that a person had participated in the threatening behaviour with which he was charged.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on a case stated by the Highbury Corner Stipendiary Magistrate when it remitted the matter to the magistrate to continue the trial against Bryan Allen and others.

Mr David Bean for the defendants, Mr Victor B. A. Temple for the prosecutor.

Lord Justice KERR, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the case arose out of the mass exodus from Euston Station of a group of about 250 football supporters after their arrival from Birmingham on August 27, 1983, and their subsequent behaviour in Euston Road until their arrest shortly afterwards.

The charge against all members of the group was one of threatening behaviour. They were taken to three separate police stations and were to be tried on various dates in groups of about ten.

The trial of the first group began on October 12, 1983, and at the close of the prosecution case it was submitted by the defence that there was no case to answer.

His Lordship said that the issue involved did not relate to the guilt or innocence of those defendants

but solely as to whether or not they had a case to answer.

It was contended that there was no evidence of individual identification nor any direct evidence to show that the defendants formed part of the group which was arrested, charged and subsequently bailed. Normally, there was some evidence linking the identity of the defendant before the court with that of the person who was alleged to have committed the offence. See *Cooke v McLean* (1974) RTR 311 and *Hays v Ministry of Transport* (1982) 1 NZLR 251.

His Lordship said that the necessary link of identification was established on a *prima facie* basis since the reason for the defendant's appearance at court on October 12 and pleas to the charges in their names concerning the events on August 27 was that they had been arrested, charged and bailed as part of the group of persons who were alleged to have used threatening behaviour in Euston Road on that day and they presented themselves at court on that day.

On the substance of the charge, it was established from *R v Allan and Others* (1965) 1 QB 1301, and *Parish and Others v Garlin* (Divisional Court, unreported, June 12, 1975) that a defendant's voluntary presence during an arrest or as part of a crowd engaged in threatening behaviour was capable of raising a *prima facie* case of participation against the defendant. Mere voluntary presence was not sufficient to convict a defendant unless the court was satisfied that he at least gave some overt encouragement to the others who were directly involved.

Each defendant in the present case could give evidence that not only was he himself innocent of the threatening behaviour but also he had not encouraged others so to act that he had been swept up in the crowd without the opportunity of dissociating himself from what others were doing.

The magistrate was right to conclude that the defendants did have a case to answer.

Decisions about wards

H v Lambeth London Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Balcombe

[Judgment delivered April 2]

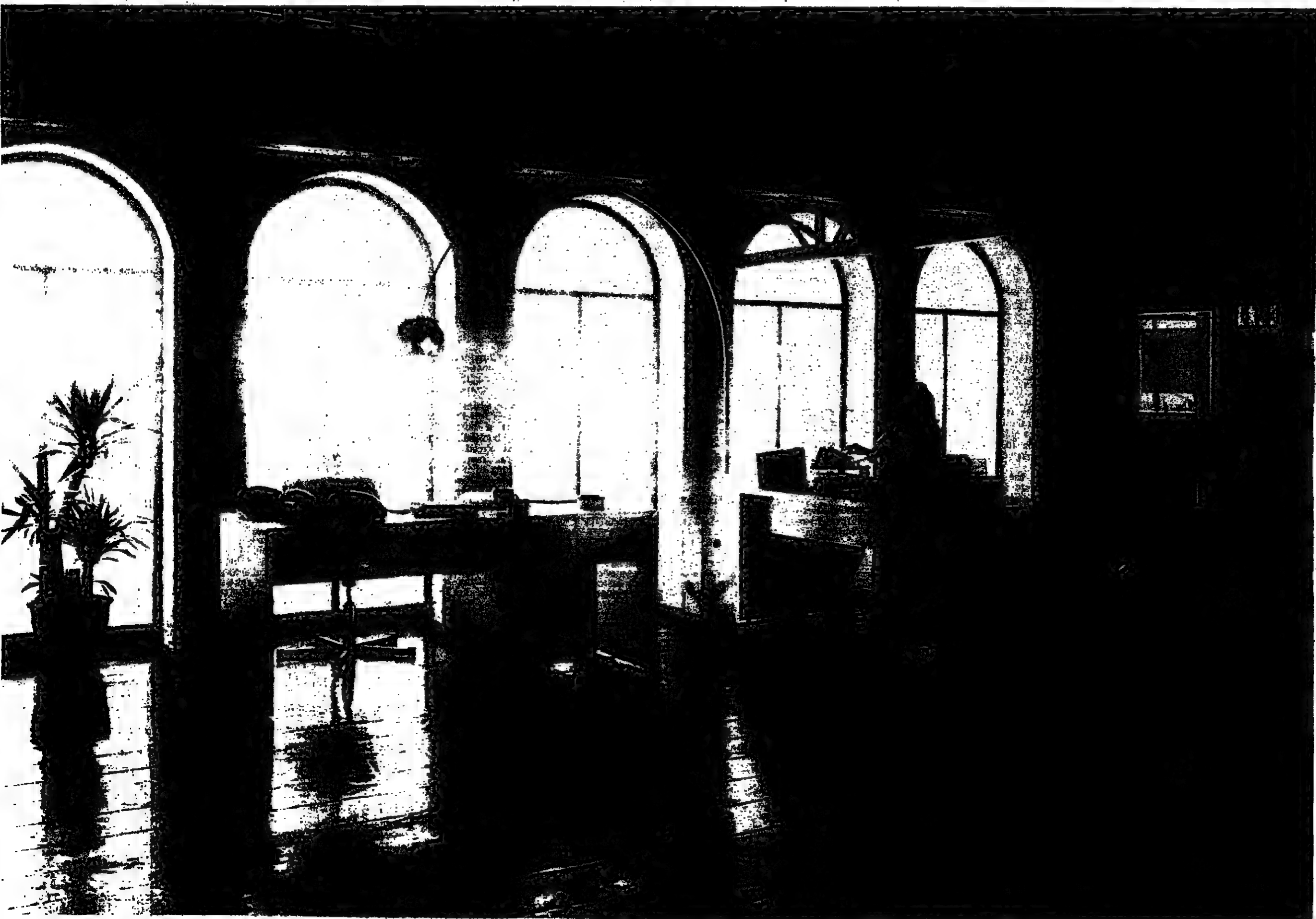
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Solicitors: Victor Mischon & Co, Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.



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THE TIMES DIARY

Open and shut case

Tomorrow Cardinal Hume, Ken Livingstone, Lady Donaldson, the Lord Mayor, and a host of other "names" are expected to attend the opening of a Hackney employment centre for ex-offenders. Dignitaries should forget their speeches, of optimism. I can report that on April 30, its doors will be closed. The surprise news of its closure has just been delivered by phone to Apex, the charity which operates the centre, from the Manpower Services Commission, which said the £350,000 funding for the Hackney centre and six others would not be renewed on May 1. When they close, more than 1,000 ex-offenders registered for work and training will be turned away, and Apex's 35 staff, who have found 400 jobs for 2,500 unemployed since the first centres opened, will be on the dole.

The one member absent from tomorrow's farce will be the charity's chairman, Baroness Seear, who, to her embarrassment, is also MSC chairman for the Bucks and Herts area. She will be at Keele University in Staffordshire addressing a convention of voluntary groups - about employment.

Smoked out

As the BMA is being attacked for its "immoral" advice to doctors to invest in tobacco shares, I see that W H Smith has been under fire from its staff for banning the latest album by the American "heavy metal" group Van Halen because the cover features a baby holding a cigarette. Three W H Smith managers protested that the sleeve would cause no more offence than the "average horror paperback jacket such as *Squirm*". The moralists thought again, and now the album is in stock with the offending cigarette concealed with sticky tape.

O O y of little faith. Lothian Region's social services has sited the £1.5 million Green Old Folks Home in Short Hope Street, Musselburgh.

Irish cream

Ireland has decided to convert its literary philistines with a "top of the Irish" list of its best modern writers. The selection, to be announced on May 8, is inevitably causing controversy. Short story writer William Trevor, novelist Brian Moore and poet Seamus Heaney are on it. So too is Samuel Beckett, which suggests a move towards his rehabilitation. Beckett's distaste for the Irish Republic, which he left more than 50 years ago, once extended to the banning of all productions of his plays, except by undergraduates at Trinity College, Dublin. Conspicuously absent, however, is Edna O'Brien, now widely regarded as a good Catholic girl gone wrong with her pro-birth control views. Publishers should take their cue - she's bound to do a Burgess.

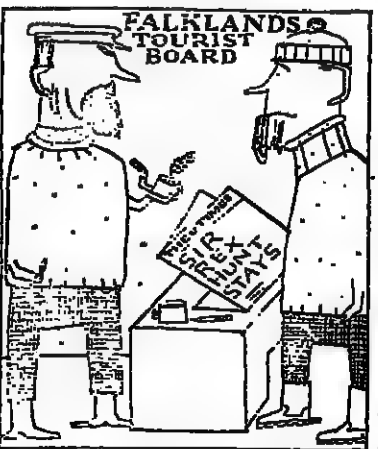
Surrey fringe

"Clockwork Wallie" Goldsmith, chairman of the right-wing Institute of Directors, must be beside himself today. First, 87 of his Surrey branch members vote, in upper-crust Esher, in favour of saving the GLC. Now the boundaries have the audacity to ask Red Ken's press secretary, Nita Clarke, to address a party of IOD members in Croydon on May 30. The subject? "Why directors get a bad press".

Olivier regrets

Lord Olivier's return to acting, after his illness last year, now seems indefinitely postponed. He was due to take the lead role in a new TV play, *Love Song*, based on an idea by Jeffrey Archer. But yesterday Anglia said it had agreed to release him from his contract. It is now searching for a replacement. Meanwhile Olivier is in Ischia for a month-long family holiday.

BARRY FANTONI



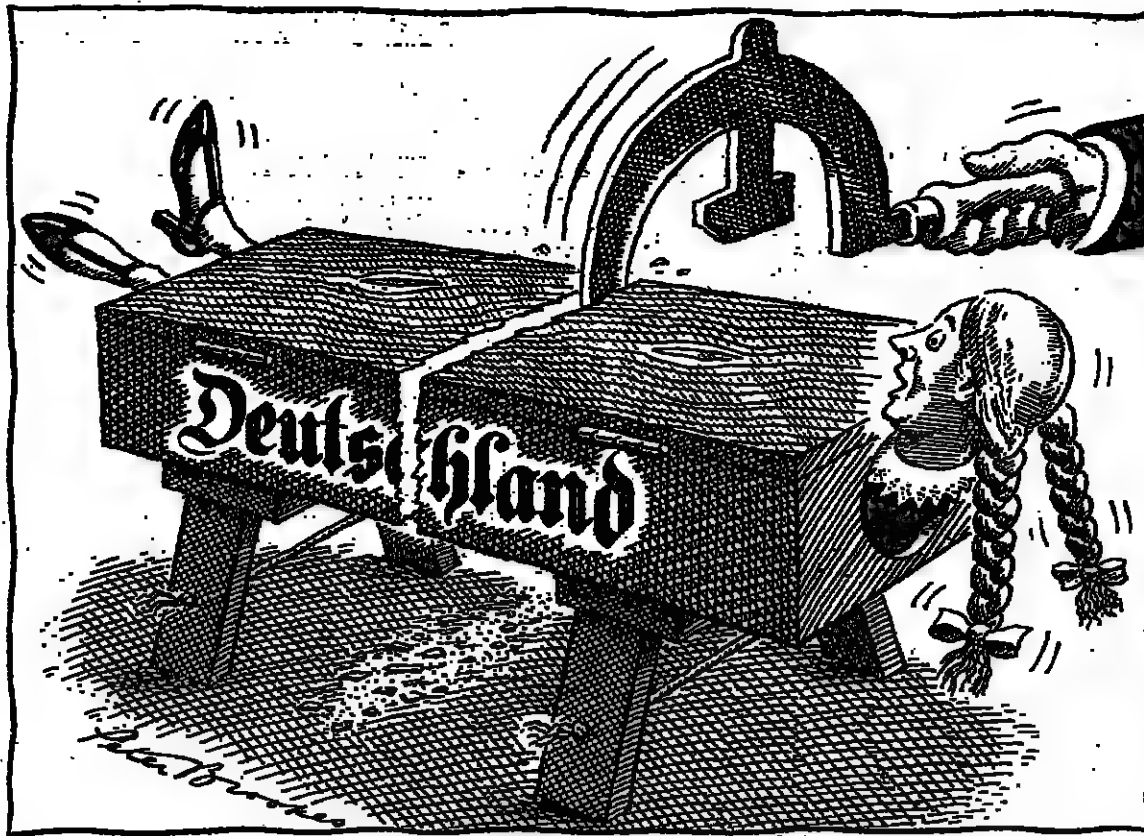
"Must as well - he's our nearest thing to an historical monument"

Amicable gender

A fusion of excitement rippled through the legal profession as they read in a *Times* Law Report last week that a woman barrister had won a case against a "mistress" or "courtesan" with the grammatically pure but uninterestingly sterile lawyers' Latin reference to a friend in the feminine.

PHS

Germany: Michael Binyon looks beyond the new East-West links



Closer, but can they ever be rejoined?

Bonn. Virtually every week brings news of fresh developments in relations between East and West Germany; new negotiations on the environment, transport, trade or culture; yet another West German politician in a tête-à-tête with Erich Honecker, the East German leader; another 2,000 or so East German immigrants arriving in the Federal Republic; talks tomorrow between Chancellor Kohl and an East German politburo member followed in a few months by Herr Honecker's first journey to West Germany. But where will it all lead, Germans and their allies on both sides are asking themselves, and why is it happening now?

The second question is easier to answer. One reason is that East Germany needs the money. Herr Honecker has staked his regime's reputation on its ability to provide a decent standard of living, or at least one that is significantly better than in other East block countries. Money and credit are tight; it is clear that the Russians are in no position to underpin the gains of recent years, and although Herr Honecker might like it, there is no other western country willing to offer the kind of help he can get from Bonn.

But politics are as important as economics. Moscow has evidently decided to allow its most important Warsaw Pact ally more room for manoeuvre. By this it may hope to entice West Germany away from its Nato anchoring, and to remind Bonn that Moscow has the ultimate say on relations with East Berlin. Or the Russians may argue pragmatically that the West Germans may as well foot the bill and buy off any discontent in the GDR lest it develop into a serious and destabilizing challenge to the communist regime. Poland was a warning.

East Berlin, for its part, has compelling political reasons for wanting to stabilize the delicate relationship with its bigger, richer, stronger western neighbour, especially at a time of bad overall East-West relations. It has long been clear that the policy of *Abgrenzung* - distancing itself from the Federal Republic - would not work.

East Germany cannot strengthen its legitimacy in the eyes of its own people in opposition and contradiction to West Germany. It had to take the risk of rapprochement. And this is now much easier with a conservative government in Bonn than when the Social Democrats were in power. Communists find it easier to live with conservatives than with those whose politics trespass on their own territory.

All this coincides with another powerful movement in East Germany today: the rediscovery that it is a German, not simply a communist, state and that it shares a culture and history with its western neighbour. The celebrations for Luther's centenary helped, so has the partial rehabilitation of the Prussian heritage. And the Protestant Church has reinforced the deeply-felt conviction in East Germany, as well as in the West, that both sides have a special moral responsibility to strive for peace, preserve détente and prevent war from ever arising again from German soil.

West German politicians admit that after years of initiatives from Bonn they were met with stony silence in East Berlin. It is now Herr Honecker who seems to be setting the pace. At the height of his power and authority he has responded with alacrity to Bonn's signals, and forced through those measures which he knows are so symbolically important to the West - the dismantling of border scatter-guns, the releasing of emigrants, the abolition of compulsory currency exchanges for visitors under 15 - in the face of what may be tough opposition within the communist apparatus.

But what is the long-term aim? For East Germany it is legal confirmation of the status quo, de jure recognition as a completely separate country. For West Germany it is the exact opposite: the establishment of a normal, though special, relationship leading eventually to reunification.

The key word is "eventually". For no responsible West German politician now sees reunification as anything other than a very distant prospect - one that will not come about without an overall peace settlement in Europe and the agreement of the four wartime allies. Such a thing will not happen until

the Soviet Union gives up its empire in Eastern Europe.

Indeed many politicians regret that the country is lumbered with the reunification concept, which still has a strong claim on the sentiments of many of the older generation, for they insist that greater unity is still possible without necessarily leading to the fusion of the two German states. And the achievement of this unity - be it cultural, political or in some other dimension - is the real, though rather vague, aim of Bonn's present policies towards the GDR.

There will have to be further concessions on Bonn's part. Herr Honecker has laid down his four conditions for a real normalization of relations: the closure of the Salzburger Centre that officially registers the shootings and other theoretically punishable offences committed by East German guards along the border, the fixture of the boundary along the Elbe as being in the middle of the river, recognition of separate East German citizenship and the transformation of the representations in Bonn and East Berlin into ordinary embassies.

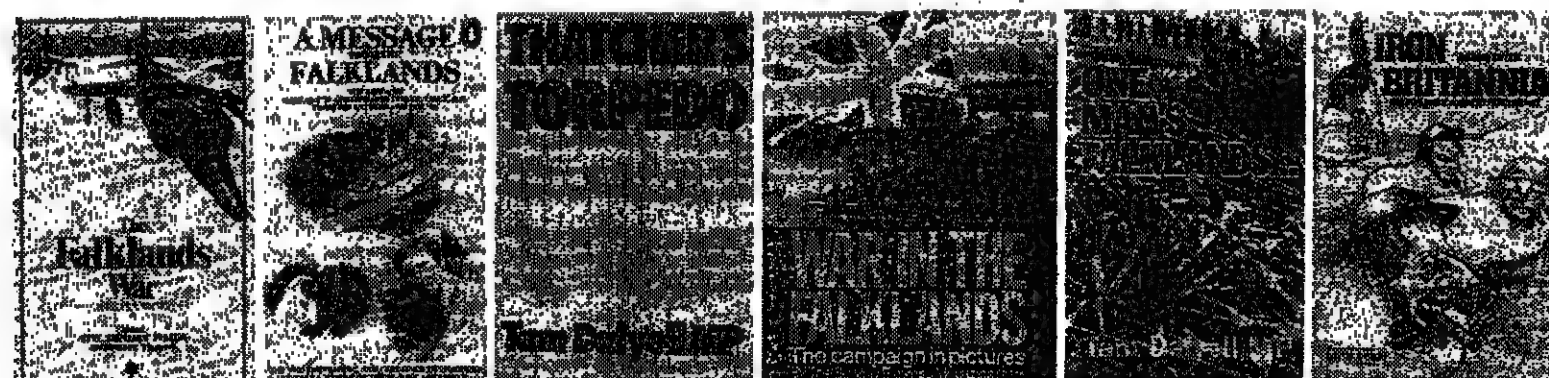
The first demand is already being discussed here, since the centre - which has recorded more than 31,000 offences since the building of

the Berlin Wall - is of only symbolic use, and a formula could be found for its dismantling. The second is highly controversial at the moment, with the Social Democrats calling the East German claim reasonable and conservatives insisting that only the Allies have the power to alter their 1944 decision that the border should run along the bank on the East German side. But here again a solution is possible. The last two demands are both constitutionally and emotionally impossible for West Germany to accept, and East Berlin knows that.

But even if both countries agreed, or agreed to disagree, on these points, what further steps are possible without running into the buffers of opposing ideologies? The answer is, sadly, not very many so long as Europe is divided. Both East and West Germany have to look over their shoulders at the suspicions of the respective allies. Each has tacitly agreed that it will not do anything to rouse the fears of the other's partners. And just as Herr Honecker is able to buy a little freedom of action with his rock-solid loyalty to Moscow, so the Christian Democrats in Bonn insist they are able to do more to further inter-German relations than the SPD because West Germany's allies know they are utterly reliable as solid Nato partners.

The truth is that in spite of all the noise and flurries, the high hopes and publicity, nothing fundamental is changing in relations between the two German states. Improvement is a long, slow haul, as both sides know. The results will only show in better links across the border, more human contacts, a sense of shared history and destiny. But that for Bonn is enough for now. To expect more would be Utopian.

These British accounts of the Falklands war are best-sellers in Buenos Aires but we still cannot read their side. Alan Franks reports on a campaign to lift the import ban on Argentine books



Britain's reluctance to trade words (the printed kind) with Argentina two years after the Falklands conflict is proving a source of frustration and embarrassment to British publishers and booksellers. It is now acquiring a new irony in the light of the fact that Buenos Aires publishers are doing a brisk trade in translations of British books on the subject.

Figures coming from the Argentine capital suggest that the account by *The Sunday Times* Insight team has proved the most popular, selling 35,000 within hours of publication, and now topping the 50,000 mark. The *Sunday Express* pictorial chronicle is to appear this month, with an initial print run of 30,000. The publishers say these books are not being snapped up solely by Anglo-Argentines and British residents.

"People are now very interested in the British position", a spokesman for one of the publishers, Hyspanica, says. "We know that your position and ours are very different, but, especially since the elections here, we want to find out what you think. Many Argentines believe that what their country did two years ago was the illegal action of an illegal government in a just cause. We should like very much to publish more books about the Falklands by your writers."

Hyspanica is now printing three more books which are, to say the least, rather hostile to the British position, while not condoning the Argentine invasion. They are Anthony Barnett's *Iron Britannia*, a study of the political roots from which grew Britain's response to the crisis, and two chilling salutes against the British government and its leadership. Tam Dalyell's *One Man's Falklands* and *Thatcher's Torpedo*. Together with Lieutenant David Tinker's posthumous *A Message From The Falklands*, published in Buenos Aires by Enlace, they form part of a broad spectrum of British opinion on the conflict which is beginning to appear in Argentina.

To set a reciprocal tide in motion here, publishers are aware that they might be flouting the law even by purchasing English rights from Argentine houses, and the possibility

The war of words goes on, but now it's one-way

is being examined of working through Spanish intermediaries who could acquire and then re-export English rights from Argentina.

Judging by the success in Britain of the latest Falklands book, (Gavshon and Rice's *The Sinking of the Belgrano*), the appetite for the subject remains strong and it would be wrong to assume that Argentine works would not sell. Grant and Cutler, one of the principal British importers of Latin American literature, wish to bring no more than 14 "Malvinas" books. Their absence from the shelves of British libraries and bookshops can be seen as an indication that demand seldom asserts itself fully where there is no supply.

One manuscript certain to attract the interest of many British publishers is now being worked on by Argentina's foreign secretary at the time of the invasion, Señor Costa Mendez.

When the general trade ban was mitigated last September to allow the importation of books by individuals and institutions, the far more substantial traffic of consignments for commercial resale in Britain remained outlawed. As a result, the peculiar situation has arisen whereby Argentine suppliers have started to trade directly with individual British purchasers, circumventing their traditional middlemen. This has simply penalized certain UK specialist dealers in the field while allowing Argentine exports to be restored to something like their full flow - the very thing which the ban was intended to prevent.

At the quadrennial congress of the International Publishers' Association in Mexico City three weeks ago, there was a unanimous vote in support of the British Publishers

Association's opposition to the ban; but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, despite rumours of disunity for the ban within its own ranks, has remained unmoved. Parcels of pristine volumes, some of which are required reading for British students of Latin American affairs, still languish in the custody of HM Customs at Dover, redeemable by the purchasers only on condition of their immediate re-export and the payment of a £150 release fee.

The impasse is not without its black humour; while in Mexico City last month, Graham C. Greene, managing director of Jonathan Cape, told the congress how one of his house's books, having been considered for some time by an Argentine publisher, was finally returned only to be impounded by Customs officials. Greene and other publishers are arguing that although Argentina is not a signatory to the Florence Agreement on the importing of educational, scientific and cultural materials, Britain should none the less be guided by the spirit of the compact in its attitude to exchanges of the printed word.

The agreement states that signatory countries may stop the import of relevant matter if it is likely to endanger national security, public order or public morals, yet no such claims are being made for these prohibited or impounded packages.

The Department of Trade and Industry has acknowledged that certain anomalies and injustices are bound to occur. In the course of a lengthy, and at times acrimonious, correspondence with Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, R. F. Cutler, chairman of Grant and Cutler, pointed out that one of his clients, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, had managed to acquire,

shortly before Christmas, a number of volumes identical to those impounded, through one of the firm's Argentine competitors.

Set therefore against the Department of Trade's fear that precedent would attract a host of special pleading is the bookellers' argument that there is already a *de facto* breach of the ban and that a wholesale lifting of it where books are concerned would represent the real consistency in government policy in the wake of the September mitigation.

But the arguments go deeper than this, and can be identified, according to Cutler's analysis, in three main categories: trade, historical/empirical, and moral. Reduced to their basic terms, they run as follows: while it is possible that the gesture should be made, Argentine book exports are, but slightly denied; examples such as the Beira blockade and League of Nations sanctions against Mussolini over Abyssinia demonstrate the failure of such ploys to isolate the victim; finally, and most importantly, should not the written word command universal respect in a non-totalitarian state? (And, incidentally, were not books exempted from the trade embargo which followed the Rhodesian declaration of UDI?). As far as the last point is concerned, it is no secret that British publishers felt some discomfort at the Moscow Book Fair last October when their foreign counterparts found some of their titles missing from the stands and brayed a Babel of abuse against Soviet censorship.

Straws in the wind are blowing from the Foreign Office. One of them fluttered to R. F. Cutler's desk five weeks ago. A senior official wrote: "I must say I find your arguments impressive. So I am sure you will be pleased to hear that I have decided that we should now look again at all the implications of our policy on book imports from Argentina - although I am afraid I cannot make any promises about the outcome."

It is an outcome for which Mr Cutler is still waiting at his bookshop off the Strand - not entirely without hope.

Ronald Butt

Education: when an X is right

Mrs Thatcher decided recently that the possibility of a directly elected Inner London Education Authority should be put back on the Cabinet's agenda. It has now been discussed at a number of cabinet committee meetings, papers have been produced, and the Cabinet must make up its mind. Ministers know that a directly elected Ilea is what Conservatives on the present Ilea want. A meeting of Conservative governors of Ilea schools the other night also made sure that the party's Under Secretary for Education, Mr Robert Dunn, took away the same impression after he had told them that the Government was reconsidering the way in which Ilea should be constituted after the abolition of the Greater London Council. If a directly elected Ilea is, after all, to be the Cabinet's decision, that could have important consequences for other aspects of London government and possibly for the management of education in Britain more generally.

Ilea at present comprises 35 members who are elected as GLC councillors for inner London and 13 nominated by the inner London boroughs. The Government had proposed that it should be replaced by a joint education board (JEB) composed entirely of people nominated by the inner London borough councils (the City of London from their own number). The principal alternative proposition, favoured by Mrs Thatcher herself at one stage, had been that education in inner London should be handed over to the boroughs (which manage it in outer London.) But quite apart from the difficulty some of the inner boroughs would have had in finding the financial resources to cope with it, it was felt to be quite wrong to put children at the mercy of the kind of incompetence and politicized educational ideology prevailing in some of the "red" far-left boroughs, such as Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets.

A nominated JEB had thus seemed settled but recently a group of important ministers have been converted to the idea of a directly elected Ilea by the opposition to the JEB among London Conservatives, and especially London Conservative MPs. These critics do not agree that nominated borough councillors would make an acceptably democratic assembly.

They believe that the JEB, with its power to determine its own expenditure and to levy a corresponding precept on the inner boroughs, would be subject (apart from general rate capping) to a better financial discipline than the wasteful Ilea, and that it would have the same politicized approach to education. They do not think that it would be possible to combine the duties of an ordinary borough councillor with those of a nominated JEB member, which would be virtually full-time. Either the boroughs would suffer, or they would nominate their less useful members to Ilea.

The case for a directly elected Ilea is much more attractive. Potentially, almost every voter, either as a parent, grandparent, or ex-child has an interest in education, a subject on which everyone has views. This encourages hope that there would be a bigger turnout for an educational election than would be possible in any other single-issue poll or even in local elections generally. Above all, such an arrangement might take education some way out of politics. The famed battles over Highbury School in Islington can be called into evidence. Twice threatened by a

change of character or virtual extinction by the leftist establishment on Ilea, the discipline of character it has inherited from the days of Rhodes Boyson's headship, it has twice been saved by local campaigns. And these campaigns were fought by Labour voters who want the school as it is but would never abandon their Labour allegiance in a local election on general issues.

Of course, the consequences of an elected Ilea cannot be certainly predicted. Would it really attract a sufficient turnout on polling-day? Would enough candidates be able to dispense with a party label to enable the contest to be partly at least on non-political educational issues? Would Labour voters really resist voting for the party label of a candidate whose educational policies they disliked? Such a body ought, of course, to operate under greater financial discipline because (presumably) it would levy its own rate; voters would then know what they were paying for educational services, the cost of which is now hidden in the small print of the general rate. But should an elected Ilea be able to levy its own rate instead of precepting education on the boroughs?

It is only possible to guess the answers to most of these questions. Still less is it clear what the wider implications of an elected Ilea would be for the case of Greater London Conservatives who support the abolition of the present GLC but still insist that there should be a directly elected London body to take over some of the residual GLC functions which the Government intends to give to nominated joint boards and quangos. They hope (and some in the Cabinet fear) that a decision for an elected Ilea would be a Trojan horse leading also to government acceptance of an elected body to deal with such trans-London services as roads, the fire service and the rest.

There would be more good than harm if the Government did so agree. If there are genuinely London-wide functions which are to be dealt with by a London-wide appointed board or quango, why should they not be managed by a London-wide elected body? It does not have to be a general political body with certain functions excepted, as the GLC is. Its specific and limited functions would be prescribed and it would be shorn of the discretion to raise money which enables Mr Livingstone to waste it on his own political patronage. But the Government is in difficulties because it is making up policy as it goes along.

As the Tory GLC leader, Mr Alan Greengross, puts it: "They first postulated the solution and then spent a year trying to find the questions to fit it." If the Government were to agree to elections for a London-wide board for London-wide functions, that would be simply recognizing that local accountability still matters.

As for education, it is certain that the Joint Education Board would be heavily and permanently left-wing, whereas a directly elected Ilea might not be, and would at least give electors a chance to choose for themselves. It could give an opportunity to centrist or unlabelled candidates to help to free education from political criteria. It might be an instructive pilot scheme for the rest of the country. Above all, it might be better than what we have, whereas the JEB would be no better and might be worse. The Government should be bold and change its mind.

Paul Pickering

Why Suki risks a nuking

When the bailiffs moved the Greenham women out of their camp early yesterday, they gave me a bit of heavy breathing space. Whether cruise missiles are a threat to peace is a matter of opinion. But they are certainly a threat to marriage, giving the predatory female the ultimate excuse for a pre-emptive strike against the defenceless male.

What other pretext could there be for ringing up a man, a happily married man, at 4 am and arranging a "meeting" on a lonely stretch of heath near conveniently placed tents and Volkswagen caravans?

Wives may not be on their guard against this novel form of seduction, but they are bound to be wary of the behaviour since the media tend to portray Greenham women as foul-mouthed, two sizes bigger than a Belfast stoker and smelling like a hog badger. Alas, this is not always the case, and by parting with my card outside an airbase to a damsel with a face off a Mucha poster and past coloured leg-warmers, I started my present troubles. "And just who is this Suki?" snapped my wife of three months across the wedding-present pillows when I woke the other morning. "Suki who?" I replied unconvincedly.

Apparently in the small hours a lady called Suki had telephoned: "Is that Paul's flat? Look, we think the cruise missiles are moving again; could I speak to him? Do you think he could come up here now? I'm sure we could make it worth his while." I said I was not at home.

"Are you sure you've got the right number?" my wife asked incredulously. "Is this some kind of practical joke?" The Greenham lady then said it was far from being a jocular matter and indeed mankind's survival, womankind's too, was the most serious thing she could think of, and it was everyone's duty to lend a hand.

"Can he come out?" Suki reportedly repeated and was told politely, but frostily, by an increasingly suspicious spouse that in no

way was I allowed to go and play with strangers at such an hour; could she ring back at a civilized time. "There is no appropriate time when it comes to the nuclear threat. Let me speak to Paul."

My wife was becoming tetchy: "You cannot speak to my husband; he has taken some Night Nurse because he has a cold and is fast asleep. I'm sorry, Goodnight, I mean Good Morning." But that was not enough.

"I suppose he would take Night Nurse and sleep through a nuclear war," said Suki. My Alice tarty added that at least one would be able to greet St Peter without a streaming cold. "I bet you're one of those old barmy women that votes Tory and gives money to Olga Maitland," was the parting shot.

As I woke from my Night Nurse trance, dreaming of making a century against Pakistan, I could not think why Alice was wearing such a shrew-like expression. "Honestly, I've never heard of anyone called Suki," I kept saying. There were no customary Marmite soldiers with the breakfast egg, so I don't think she believed me.

Two nights later a girl called Mary rang, and again I slept through it. "She sounded awfully well spoken," said Alice, one of those innocuous female statements which is quite Proustian in its levels of meaning. Did the mystery callers plan something more than loitering with intent outside a chilly airbase?

It takes time for this one turns to a priest in this case one who belongs to CND. He told me of complicated plans for bands of activists, linked by CB radios, to block London's bridges, presumably to stop the odd launch from Kew Gardens or Battersea. "Of course it does bring people together, just like in the Sixties," he winked.

The only thing that worries me now is the thought of early morning phone calls from Moleworm or Holy Loch.



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IN THE WRONG HANDS

The Heckler and Koch MP5K is a light and compact 9mm sub-machine gun of high velocity and long range. It will fire at the rate of 900 rounds a minute from magazines of 15 or 30. It can be carried in a shoulder holster. The Metropolitan Police would like to have a few of them to add to its armoury. With security preparations being made for the visit to London of President Reagan and other leaders of the free world for the economic summit in June, this was a good time to intend for them. The Home Secretary has given his approval. His department denies that he was subject to any external pressure. All the same, in giving reassurance to the visitors' domestic protectors, it may help him to be able to say that these weapons will be available.

Approval should not have been given. Weapons of that nature have no place in the armouries of the police forces of Great Britain. Their presence there implies a readiness to resort to lethal combat to a degree incompatible with the principles of civil policing. The rapidity and scatter of their fire imply a willingness to inflict death and injury *en passant*, beside and beyond the target, to a degree that begins to conflict with the principles of justifiable homicide. Especially is that so among crowds or with bystanders - at the public appear-

ances of our visitors in June for instance.

It is said that the rules governing the use of the sub-machine guns will be even stricter than the rules applicable to other firearms held by the Metropolitan Police, in the use of which 4,000 officers are trained. And they will be issued only on the authority of an assistant commissioner. But it is too soon after the Stephen Wakerford affair for there to be enough confidence in the training and judgment of the London police in this extension of their power.

More general considerations point the same way. The police are in an exposed position at the moment. A comprehensive redefinition of their powers is making its way through Parliament. They had hardly recovered from the traumas of Brixton and Toxteth than they were called upon to regulate picketing in the coalfields on a scale not before attempted. Their success so far has entailed novel and sometimes questionable tactics. These have been met with the complaint that the police are being given a paramilitary role. The proposition is absurd, but that does not mean that there are not plenty eager to believe it. It is not an opportune moment to arm the police in a fashion that really does give an

appearance of substance to the paramilitary nonsense.

When President Reagan's secret service men step on to the tarmac here they leave their firearms behind them. The British authorities assume the major responsibility for the President's safety. They cannot shirk employment of the necessary means. Sub-machine guns at the ready would add nothing to the protection of any of the visitors from attempts by individual assassins; they can be stopped by high-velocity hand guns as well as by a jet of automatic fire. But it is possible to invent improbable contingencies - an ambush, a multiple heavily armed attack from the street - for which automatic weapons might be needed to repel assault. But at that point it becomes a matter for the military in aid of the police. The Special Air Service is highly trained in the use of such weapons, for just such emergencies, and the protection of VIPs has been part of their training.

If their review of the risks causes ministers to conclude that there must be heavily armed readiness against that sort of contingency, they should not jack up the weaponry of the police. They should deploy the SAS in company with the special branch, ready to take control in extremis at the word of the senior police officer present.

A LONG WAY TO CALIFORNIA

The result of the New York primary must consolidate Mr Walter Mondale's grip on the party machine. It must help him to limit any further encroachment from Senator Hart, though there are still many more primaries before California in June. New York was widely regarded as a make-or-break event in the race to select a Democratic presidential candidate. That was not just because of the large number of delegates which the state will send to the party convention. It also reflected the fact that the momentum of Senator Hart's campaign had swept through New England and built up a psychological and fashionable advantage which, even without a detailed political programme, is an essential element of American presidential politics. Nevertheless the effect of Senator Hart's campaign so far may have deprived Mr. Mondale of the nomination on the first ballot at the Convention. That is less serious for him than it would have been for any of the other candidates, given Mr Mondale's formidable control of the party machine.

Indeed the Mondale/Hart contest is in essence a continuation of the struggle for both the soul and the sinews of the party, which has been unresolved since 1968. The party then divided over a choice of candidates, with the establishment candidate being vice-president Humphrey - definitely the Mondale of his day - with Senator McCarthy representing the anti-establishment movement. Humphrey was chosen, but it was felt the choice derived more from the influence of the party big-wigs and the trade union

leadership than it did from any rank and file acclaim.

The result was the McGovern Commission which changed the rules in a way which reduced the hold on the selection procedure by the trade union leadership and the big city machines led by men like Mayor Daley of Chicago. It led, in 1972, to the selection of Senator George McGovern, the anti-establishment candidate; and with what disastrous results.

Senator Hart cut his political teeth in the 1972 McGovern campaign. When he now attacks Mr Mondale's reliance on the support of special interests, he normally means the trade unions, though he forgets that it was trade union support which saved his own senatorial campaign in 1980 and secured his reelection with the slenderest of majorities. The Hart campaign has dealt more with mood and atmospherics than with hard, clear domestic and international policies. It invokes a born-again Kennedy mania, with the young, urban, professional classes - the "yuppies" of American political parlance - as its cheerleaders; but also an isolationist tendency which should alarm Washington's allies. The Mondale pitch, in contrast, has emphasized the former vice-president's great political and international experience and thus his presumed wisdom and sense of global responsibility.

Last week, there was a television confrontation between the two, in which the Rev Jesse Jackson, the third candidate, played an effective role as mediator and critic of both their houses. At the time it looked as though Mr Mondale's decision to go for Mr Hart was a mistake,

since it suggested that he felt that Senator Hart was more worth attacking than was President Reagan, and also threatened to diminish his stature as a former vice-president.

It now looks as though this decision to mire the Senator in detailed arguments, and expose the weaknesses and lack of serious policy back-up in his programme was all well-considered. The margin of Mr Mondale's victory exceeded that predicted in public opinion polls before the television programme. Senator Hart is obviously not yet down for the count, but his policies, particularly the international ones, have not stood up well to scrutiny. That suggests that his nomination as candidate to fight Mr Reagan would be fraught with danger, in spite of the earlier polls which suggested that he would be more likely than Mr Mondale to beat the President.

The conventional wisdom has been that Mr Reagan would beat Mr Mondale. Perhaps it will now recognize that he is even more likely to beat Senator Hart. In this circumstance, some interest in the Democratic struggle might wane, or at least shift to the position of the Rev Jesse Jackson. His strong showing in New York suggests that he could acquire much influence at the Convention as a power broker. But he might be looking beyond that now. If it appears that the Democratic candidate, whoever he is, is likely to lose the election, Mr Jackson might be tempted to stand as a third candidate in order finally to consolidate his emerging position as the nationally recognized leader of America's blacks.

TOWARDS A FREER MARKET IN GAS

It is not often that ministers are asked to approve a commercial decision whose most striking effect will be to deduct from the country's balance of payments a sum of £1,500 million a year for the best part of a generation. Yet this is the situation now facing the Cabinet, which must decide shortly whether or not to allow the State-owned British Gas Corporation to import some £20,000 million of new gas supplies from Norway in the 1990s. The corporation has reached provisional agreement with the Norwegians to buy the gas, but the deal is being held up because of misgivings at the Treasury about the wisdom of pressing through with it until its full economic and strategic implications have been thoroughly analyzed.

These misgivings are well-founded, though not simply or even primarily because of the size of the balance of trade figures involved. Nobody disputes that British Gas is going to need substantial new supplies of natural gas in the 1990s when the early North Sea discoveries start to decline. Britain has been importing between a quarter and a third of its gas needs from Norway since the beginning of

the 1970s, and the supplies it is now contracting for will replace rather than supplement these imports. Nor do the financial terms which British Gas has negotiated with the Norwegians look particularly onerous, though they must clearly be carefully scrutinized. The price of 28p a therm is less than Continental utilities have recently agreed to pay for either Norwegian or Russian gas, which in part merely reflects the current surplus of gas available on the European market.

It is however some 15 to 20 per cent higher than British Gas has so far offered to pay for new supplies from undeveloped fields in the British sector of the North Sea, and it is here that the doubts about the sense of the Norwegian deal begin to surface. Oil companies have long argued with complete justification that British Gas's monopoly powers of purchase have impeded the development of new offshore gas fields in Britain. The Government made the first inroads into this monopoly with legislation two years ago, but its full impact has still to be felt. The Treasury is surely right to argue that the alternative of producing additional supplies of gas from

British waters must be fully examined before the Norwegian deal is rubber-stamped. Other things being equal, it must be better to develop gas ourselves - which will provide jobs, contracts and millions of pounds of tax revenue for this country - rather than giving those benefits to an overseas country.

It may well be that the only way to guarantee the adequate development of British gas resources is to allow exports to the Continent for the first time. Both the Treasury and the oil industry, traditional adversaries though they are, share the belief that allowing exports is the only sure way of creating something akin to a free market in gas in this country, and hence the most efficient allocation of resources and investment in the industry. There are sensible strategic reasons for connecting Britain more directly to the European gas grid, which will increase Europe's flexibility of response to any cutoffs in supply. In addition, until the Government has settled what it intends to do about the possible reorganization and privatization of the gas industry, it can afford to

postpone a decision.

possible bias becomes quickly obvious. When their adherences are secret or unadmitted their partiality may remain unnoticed for a long time.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW WILSKI,
36 Edith Road W14,
March 29.

The way we live now

From Mr Andrew Wilski

Sir, Bernard Levin (feature, March 27) does not seem to recognize the dangers resulting from a secret adherence to any groupings of those who are in the positions of influence.

Waiting for light on economic aims

From Professor Emeritus T. Wilson
Sir, The statement signed three years ago by 364 of my professional colleagues, and discussed again in your issue of March 30, had the merit of warning the Government that inflation would not be checked by current policies without a deepening of the recession.

Such a warning was appropriate in view of the advice being received from other quarters. For example, Professor Friedman had assured the Treasury and Civil Service Committee "that (a) only a modest reduction in output and employment will be a side effect of reducing inflation to single figures by 1982 and (b) the effect on investment and the potential for future growth will be highly favourable." (*Memorandum on Monetary Policy*, July, 1980).

Nevertheless the Cambridge statement was, in my view, much too one-sided to deserve support. It directed a strong complaint against the Government, but had nothing to say about the trade unions. Yet the TUC has been at least as much responsible for the tragic rise in unemployment as the Callaghan and Thatcher governments.

A short addition would have met the case, but it was missing. Moreover, the distinguished signatories who have recently contributed to your columns have made no attempt to repair this deficiency. They are all well aware of some of them have shown elsewhere that they are very well aware of labour market problems.

The Cambridge statement rightly implied that a higher rate of growth of real expenditure was desirable. But was it attainable on a satisfactory scale without drastic changes in the labour market? Total monetary expenditure rose by about 65 per cent between the second quarter of 1979 and the third of 1983; or by about 60 per cent if indirect taxes and subsidies are excluded. Yet

production stagnated and unemployment grew.

There is surely a strong presumption that any additional expenditure would have been largely, perhaps wholly, wasted in increased inflation. Even in 1983 the 8 per cent rise in expenditure would have been more than enough for a very strong non-inflationary recovery.

Professor Marcus Miller rightly observes in your columns (March 30) that "if spending plans are made in cash, lower inflation means more real spending". This point has been frequently made by ministers with regard to the public sector and it could be made to apply to the whole economy. The problem is not how to maintain or raise expenditure; it is how to keep down unit costs.

To say all this is neither to exonerate the Government from blame nor to include all trade union leaders in a blanket condemnation. There has, however, been a pitiful lack of responsible and constructive leadership from the TUC.

Last year, with three million unemployed, average earnings rose by about 3 per cent more than prices. No doubt some further recovery is possible without any serious acceleration of inflation, but one sufficiently strong and sustained to reduce unemployment to a more tolerable level would be a different matter.

The Cambridge statement contained the unequivocal assertion that "there are alternative policies." One hopes so. It would facilitate discussion, however, to have the nature of these policies revealed. Perhaps we can look forward to a new and more constructive statement - to be signed again by 364 economists.

Yours faithfully,
T. WILSON,
Adam Smith Building,
University of Glasgow,
Glasgow,
March 31.

Naval appreciation

From Captain J. F. R. Weir, RN

Sir, I have not seen the British Atlantic Committee's booklet, but I assume from the letters by Admiral Le Bailly (March 15) and Mr Hanning (March 21) that it postulates a non-nuclear confrontation. Mr Hanning raises two separate issues - a Can Europe be reinforced by sea from America? and b, if so, should it be by convoy or independent sailings? He concludes that the prospect of reinforcement looks more incredible every year.

But to sustain a conventional war in Europe for any length of time will need massive supply from North America's industrial base. The European base is too small and too near the front.

If, as Mr Hanning suggests, this supply will be impossible, is not this the best reason for continuing the present strategy of nuclear deterrence whereby we ensure that war does not start?

The lessons of history from the First Dutch War to 1945 and the statistical studies of two world wars show that the convoy is safer than independent sailing, regardless of the nature of the threat. Convoy across the Atlantic is thus the method of choice even in the face of new weapon technology and developments in surveillance. There would be losses, there always have been, but they would be far less than if ships were routed independently.

For my money, we could still fight convoys across the Atlantic. That we can add would add credibility to the current strategy of flexible and graduated response.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. F. R. WEIR,
Parford,
Chagford, Devon.

Rights of advocacy

From Mr B. M. Elwick

Sir, I noted with interest your report (March 27) of the Law Society's campaign to secure rights of audience in the higher courts. You referred to the Lord Chancellor's powers under the Courts Act 1971 to grant advocacy rights in the crown courts.

In fact that power has been exercised to allow solicitors right of audience at the crown court on appeals from a magistrates' court or on committal for sentence, as long as the same firm represented the defendant in the magistrates' court. See Practice Direction [1972] 1 A.L.J. 608.

Perhaps the Law Society would like to explain why they are seeking wider powers of audience when they very rarely exercise the rights they already have.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. ELWICK,
The Justices' Clerk's Office,
The Guildhall, Nottingham,
March 27.

Freedom from bias

From Mr Fred Emery and Mr Richard Lindley

Sir, Seeking to nail everyone to his cross of bias, Woodrow Wyatt (feature, March 24) assumes we must all be as bad. So he demands that television current affairs journalists - ourselves singled out - carry a health warning.

We must reveal not only how we voted at the last election (assuming we did) but also how we intend to vote next time (assuming we know); the same self-assessment to be avowed by programme producers, researchers and editors.

How would such a wondrous scheme, timely indeed in 1984, be implemented? Should the confessions be collective? The following programme is brought to you by three journalists who voted Conservative, three Labour, three SDP-Liberal, and two don't know - four of whom are now having second thoughts. An update next week...

Or should it be personal, a procession of show and tell? "Good

Room at the top

From Mrs Jean Dickinson

Sir, Mr Clifford Longley's picture of an archbishop ("Hard-to-fill houses of the Lord", March 28), plugging top clerical posts with reluctant takers, dragging their protesting wives with them, is a spine-chilling prospect.

Has he never heard of negotiated roles within clerical marriages? If Mrs Runcie expressed "horror" at the palace of York as her possible future home, is it Mrs Runcie who is to be chastised and not the rigidity of a tradition that prescribes hundred-room palaces for some of its bishops?

"The call of duty" in this context seems a highly suspect phrase. Duty to what? Don't let's confuse taking up the Cross of Christ with being martyred by the rigid anachronisms of the C of E.

It might have been more profitable if Mr Longley had examined the reasons why gifted men are turning down "top posts". Could it be that the job descriptions need rewriting and the tied mansions resiting?

Yours faithfully,
JEAN DICKINSON,
St Michael's Vicarage,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

New exam-level

From Dr David Ingram

Sir, The correspondence prompted by Lord Flowers's letter of March 8, in which he expressed a wish to see an expanded and enriched sixth-form curriculum, including the provision of an intermediate-level examination, may be causing some misunderstanding.

As the universities see it, the purpose of a new examination level would not be to usurp the splendid position which some schools - like Mr Avery's (March 19) and Mr Ryan's (March 27) - have given to general studies. Rather it would be to provide a flexible alternative to the three specialist A levels on which so many others of a university place are based.

In university entrance requirements it is quite rare for more than two A levels to be specified by name. In engineering, for example, it is most often mathematics and physics which are stated to be essential; in practice most applicants also have A level chemistry, because it is widely thought to be the most appropriate third subject.

A stereotype of this kind is difficult to modify when there is only one level of examination. Hence the idea of the I levels, which can be thought of as half A levels. Two of these would replace the third A level and, in the case of engineering students, could, for example, be chosen from chemistry, design, or a foreign language.

If we want to encourage potential engineers to cultivate a sense of

evening, I voted this way last time; think I'll vote at all next time. Now, the editor... And so on, with rapid screen appearances of all those who made some journalistic contribution. Should it be on oath? Or would viewers take it on trust?

Would you get merit, or outrage, for appearing to go against your past voting record? What wrath might be visited on a Labour-voting presenter who dared report critically on Mr Kinnoch; what denunciation for a declared Tory who dared take on Mrs Thatcher? Far from clarifying anything for viewers, such a barmy scheme would, we believe, inject an utterly irrelevant element of confusion and irritation into the serious purpose of independent reporting current affairs television aims for.

It is for the BBC to answer Sir Woodrow's charges against its programmes and recruitment policies - if the corporation considers his preposterous accusations worthy of a reply.

For ourselves, we resolutely reject the charge of political bias, left right or centre. It is as absurd as it is

Buildings in the modern vernacular

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir, An article by Roderick Gradidge, "Back to firm foundations" last Friday (March 30) was, as a premise, on very shaky foundations.

Only some architects choose to design pastiche buildings, for some clients; others have pastiche forced upon them and their clients by local authority diktat; but others and their clients still believe there is a twentieth-century vernacular composed, as with previous vernaculars, of materials and techniques of their day.

Emile Coignet once said "enduring architecture is created when the imperatives of new structural techniques are mastered." It was so in the past, it will be in the future, and it has to be so now.

Some weeks ago in this newspaper Sir Roy Strong pleaded that the English should remember, when admiring their past heritage, that they also have an obligation to making some new heritage now. This must be right.

People like Roderick Gradidge, who can only look backward for solutions, represent a part of society that is sick and unconfident. The world we live in was made by people who reached forward and had their eyes on the future. Their goals were ahead, not behind.

That is why we fly in aeroplanes and live in an electronic age. That is why, for example, the Parthenon, Santa Sophia, Peter's and Crystal Palace were built. New ideas, new techniques, new materials; strange they all looked for their time, as the Centre Pompidou and the Sainsbury Centre do now. But they are all no more than steps in the inevitable unfolding of human achievement.

Tudor turrets and red bricks, Mr Gradidge, are unlikely to be what posterity expects as the architecture of the age of the space shuttle.

Turrets and red brick do not of themselves make good architecture. As the eighteenth century showed in

an exemplary manner, architecture is an arrangement of scale, not just materials. An identical plain Georgian facade can be either stucco, brick or timber and still succeed.

Those who care about architecture must struggle to achieve similar results in today's materials, steel, glass, concrete and plastic, as well as reusing traditional materials to suit our new needs. This is where the skill lies, not in reproducing past successes.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MANSEY, President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.
April 1.

From Lord Esher

Sir, No need to defend the international style of the last fifty years from Mr Gradidge's contemptuous dismissal ("Spectrum", March 30); we can confidently leave it to serious historians to identify the masterpieces of that period. But he goes on to make two recommendations.

The first is that to "become unnoticed... is all that good architecture should do." (Shades of great men from Vanbrugh to Gilbert Scott). The second is that we should copy our facades from those of the 1880s and the 1890s, "the greatest of all periods of architecture in England" - the age, I must point out, of the great hotels like the Metropole in Brighton, the Grand in Scarborough, the North British in Edinburgh and the Russell, the Hyde Park, the Langham and the St Pancras in London, all of which blasted their way into bland Georgian or early Victorian scenes.

Mr Gradidge cannot have it both ways if he seeks to be taken seriously as a guide to the architecture of this high-tech age. Yours faithfully,
ESHER,
Christmas Common Tower,
Watlington,
Oxford,
April 1.

Falklands future

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, My friend and colleague, Mr George Walden (feature, March 31), is quite right to attribute a "sense of disproportion" to some elements of public opinion about the future of the Falkland Islands. This was evident in at least two of the so-called "heavy" Sunday papers at the weekend.

It is easy enough to question whether the principle of self-determination justifies an expenditure of £1m per inhabitant, but his analysis does not go to the heart of the matter.

Argentina has been defeated in war and is virtually bankrupt. In victory magnanimity? Of course, but Sir Winston Churchill never included the surrender of British interests in his concept of magnanimity. What he meant was to take Germany by the hand and lead her back into the community of nations.

There are two ways in which we could do this where Argentina is concerned. The first, and we are already doing this, is to help her with her problem of indebtedness

even though she has not formally ended hostilities against us. The second is to find areas where we could work together.

The real justification of present plans to develop the Falklands lies in the growing importance of the South Atlantic and the opportunity to develop the resources of the Antarctic along with Chile, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia, all of whom have claims on that continent. Other countries will also be interested. The exploitation of wealth beneath the permafrost presents a challenge but scarcely more than putting a man on the moon.

The Falklands presents no parallel with Hong Kong. Military factors apart, the weakness of our position in Hong Kong derives from the fact that the New Territories are already on a lease which runs out in 1997.

Advocates of a lease-back solution for the Falklands could well wake up to find that our lease was running out just when the exploitation of the Antarctic was becoming profitable. Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
April 2.

Criminals on juries

From Mr D. Barnes

Sir, In response to Lord Harris of Greenwich's letter (29 March) I have never understood why it is assumed that criminals should have less interest (except when they themselves are in the dock) in the just outcome of a criminal trial.

Furthermore, surely someone with first-hand experience of the way police conduct investigations is in the best possible position to evaluate the accuracy or otherwise of evidence given by a police officer on oath.

Yours faithfully,
D. BARNES,
52 Avalon Road,
Ealing, W13,
March 30.

Voice of experience

From Mr P. J. Barsby

Sir, With reference to the photograph of Mr Bill Collins, a long-serving chorister, in *The Times* on Monday, March 26, sorry, but his 74 years' service is not a record.

Mr Sidney Oldham, of The Strand, Attenborough, Nottingham, has served continuously in the choir of St Mary's Church, Attenborough, since 1907, when he was 10 years old. He will be 87 on April 22 this year and will thus have completed 77 years' service, and is still going strong.

As a young man he sang tenor, but for many years now has sung bass. His father, Thomas Oldham, was in the choir for 50 years, from 1898 to 1948.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BARSBY, (Choir Secretary,
St Mary's, Attenborough),
Rockery-Ash,
172 Attenborough Lane,
Attenborough, Nottingham.

Going solo

From Mrs Doreen Perry

Sir, Dr Ormerod (March 31) notes that during a day without public transport 42 per cent of cars still had only one occupant. Has the doctor ever tried pulling up at a bus queue and offering a lift? Half of the people waiting will ignore him totally; the rest will glare suspiciously as if they suspect him, at worst of being a potential murderer, at best a rapist.

As a middle-aged woman offering lifts I have received exactly this treatment. What do they imagine I will do to them? Perhaps they fear being talked to death!

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN PERRY,
137 Andrews House,
Barbican, EC1,
April 1.

Ashridge Management College

Master classes for action men

One of Britain's leading centres for management and training. Ashridge Management College this year celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. This Special Report looks at its beginnings, development and approach



Philip Sadler: 'We do not pick up the latest fad and run with it. That would be dangerous'

Bill Braddock, deputy principal at Ashridge and director of studies for senior management courses, heads a special group of tutors running the new formula Master Classes, a three-year-old series of Action Learning Sets for chief executives and the three-week Senior Managers Programme, which has now been operating for groups of 20 since 1966.

The Master Classes, with the first due next month, are for groups of 12 directors who get together two days at a time on four different occasions during any one year. Three series of classes are so far planned for this year.

The thinking behind the new classes is that particularly experienced top managers learn best through doing something that needs to be done anyway by tackling actual problems.

Mr Braddock said: "They are taken through the process of thinking about their company strategy, with input on how to think about managing companies in a strategic way. There is a lot of value in the sharing of experiences of the managers in the group. We want them to go back into their company and do something about changing the strategy there. It gives them the chance to re-think where their company is going and how it is getting there."

Specific problems are tackled in groups of four. Three tutors are involved.

A crucial element in the Action Learning Sets is the interaction between the chief executives making up each set. There is a maximum of six for each of these groups. They come together for a single day every three weeks during a six month period, one of the advantages being that this meets the problem of busy chief executives unable to leave a business for any length of time.

Mr Braddock said: "One factor is that somebody at chief executive level, although he might need a bit of up-dating on some issues, really is not in need of new knowledge. But being a chief executive is rather a lonely job: there is nobody at your level in the organization. You cannot share the feeling of running a business: to do that you need people who are doing the same sort of job."

The set subject is simply each chief executive's own business. Each brings along issues and problems. Mr Braddock said: "They can test out ideas and take it in turns to discuss the specific problems, learning from each other. What they value is the experience of people on their own level."

But the Ashridge tutors provide a framework, guiding and pressing challenges.

What has demonstrated the value of the groups is that when the Ashridge sessions have finished, some groups have continued to meet on a regular basis to continue the process of learning from each other's experience and ideas.

The chief executives come from a wide variety of business backgrounds from managers of substantial subsidiaries of multinational companies to chief executives of medium-sized businesses. Among them have been chief executives of a London hotel, an agricultural business, a high technology engineering company, a consumer durables company and a medium-sized family business.

The Senior Managers Programme consists of six courses a year processing around 120 managers annually. The programme is for senior executives who contribute to the strategic development of their businesses. Its focus is the impact of environmental change, long term policy issues and the translation of strategy into action.

It can appeal to somebody running a medium sized business or a senior manager in charge of a department in a much larger business. It offers a developmental course particularly useful to those being raised to higher levels of management.

Mr Braddock said: "It is a fairly conventional programme except that a special philosophy underlies it. This is that management is about getting things done and not just thinking about. You have to make things happen."

Those on the course are asked to nominate a major issue facing their own company and elaborate how they are going to tackle the problem. "It gives a distinctive practical edge to the course," said Mr Braddock.

D.H.

Ashridge Management College, this year celebrating its first quarter century, has more than one touch of the unexpected. It is a striking combination of rural setting and ancient buildings. Ashridge House, which goes back 700 years to beginnings as a monastery, sits amid 4,000 mostly woodland acres, much of it now National Trust land, in the eastern arm of the Chilterns in west Hertfordshire.

All this conspires at Ashridge to exude the cloistered calm of academia, yet of all management colleges Ashridge's reputation is for securing hard-nosed practical results. Courses tend to be short and sharp.

One of its successes has been in setting up courses closely tailored to the specific needs of individual companies and in helping companies develop their management philosophy and strategies. This has been a big factor in Ashridge's growth. Some 35 companies are currently involved in individually tailored packages.

With its plethora of formal gardens the place seems tailor-made for reflection but the working atmosphere is constantly vigorous. Some days younger managers test their leadership qualities by going on foot, bicycle or sometimes canoe while taking part in end-of-year training.

At the same time there is an almost village friendliness about the place where all the jobs, including unusually the catering, are carried out by the Ashridge staff of 200. There are even two stonemasons on the payroll as well as a host of estate workers (there are still 230 acres of land to be maintained around the college).

Ashridge has done its share of pioneering, with some fresh approaches only recently introduced as with employee relations, yet downwards from

Philip Sadler, the quietly firm principal, there is among the tutorial staff a healthy scepticism of fashionable management theories. The Sadler view is: "We do not pick up the latest fad or opinion and run with it. That would be dangerous."

Even during the worst effects of the recession, Ashridge has more than held its own financially, an achievement all the more striking because unlike many management schools it has no benefits from grants or trust monies.

Ashridge has not been immune to the problems which have affected all management colleges during the recession.

In 1979, when the use of the college was surging ahead in a good national economic situation, the number of student weeks was 6,373. But when the recession bit in the following year student weeks dropped to 5,161, declining further in 1981 and bottoming in 1982 at 4,723. There was a sharp recovery last year to 5,303 student weeks, with the prospect this year of reaching 5,700.

In each of the difficult years Ashridge has still turned in a financial surplus in excess of £200,000. At the same time annual investment levels have been maintained at around £750,000, there being spending on new facilities - currently a sports complex including squash courts and a swimming pool - as well on the maintenance of the older buildings.

All the bedrooms are in modern buildings, aimed at providing facilities to the standard of good hotel, and half the classrooms and other tutorial facilities are in new buildings.

In the 20 years Mr Sadler has been at Ashridge the number of bedrooms has climbed from 60 to 170 and academic staff from half a dozen to the present 40.

Mr Sadler, who had previously been at the National Economic Development Office and the Ministry of Defence after graduating from the London School of Economics in 1953 and having a short spell in advertising, went to Ashridge first in 1964 as its first director of research. He has been principal for 15 years.

This has given him a long

perspective on the development of the Ashridge philosophy on management education. The college positions itself halfway between the academic and theoretical approach usually found in university-based business schools and the nuts and bolts approach of a management consultant.

Tutors are a mix as well, ranging from a PhD from Cambridge University to the erstwhile marketing director of a big travel company.

The Ashridge view is that management training development is a continuing process throughout a person's career, so pointing to relatively short courses of sufficient variety to fit every career stage.

Much store is set by research despite the lack of university-style resources. Leadership and organization have been focal points, with special studies of printing and construction. There is fresh work being done on management careers and how they develop. A new study is into what major problems are seen to be ahead for management in the next decade, the research being spread over a number of key companies.

Mr Sadler said: "Our reputation in industry is for being practical, relevant and consistent and that last quality is especially important. There is a big emphasis on quality control. We almost overdo it in checking people's responses to courses."

Mr Sadler foresees further growth for Ashridge without increasing the accommodation there. One possibility being explored is evening programmes appealing to smaller businesses and companies within about 40 minutes' travelling time of the college.

It would be within the Ashridge charter to set up a second college, preferably abroad. A former Commonwealth country would be one logical location or if an international centre became the choice a country like Switzerland would be a possibility.

Ashridge is already involved in setting up courses abroad. A senior management course is being planned in Hongkong next year in conjunction with some local organizations.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

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ASHRIDGE COLLEGE

Climbing the management tree

College courses now bring in £1m a year

For those on the lower rungs of the management ladder, Ashridge offers a number of courses. There are others aimed at developing special skills which also offer help to those further up the management tree.

This amalgam of courses, for which Dr Laurence Handy is director of studies, is the second largest generator of fee income at the college, accounting for rather more than £1m annually with in excess of 700 managers attending the courses each year.

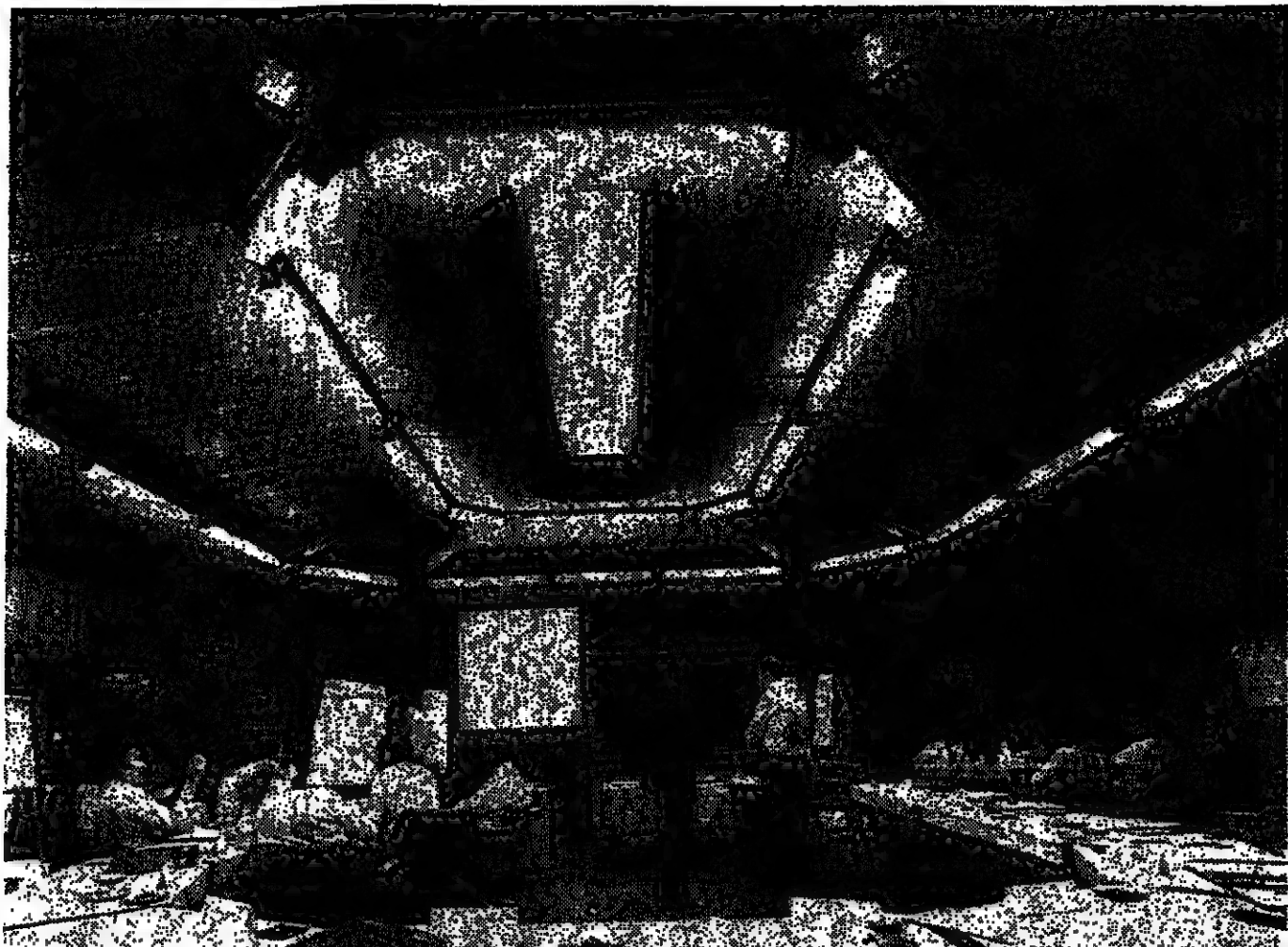
Aimed largely at those starting in management is an Introduction to Management course and another for Developing Managerial Skills. Two other particularly successful groups of programmes for developing special skills cover organizational behaviour and employee relations strategies. All are open programmes, but each has a counterpart in programmes tailored to an individual company's needs.

Dr Handy said: "It is possible to make a start in management and work through a series of programmes, coming back from time to time at different stages of a career."

Colin Hastings, who is director of the organizational behaviour programmes, said: "The sort of person who typically can benefit is the manager who has been a technical or a financial specialist and who then moves into managing people for the first time. He or she might take the managerial skills programmes at a time when it is necessary to take a wider view of the business and a hard look at the future."

In common with all Ashridge programmes the courses are results-orientated - "the difference is between an acceptable performance and an excellent performance, the securing of a quantum leap", as Mr Hastings described it.

Dr Handy said: "You have to set individuals to challenge a lot of their assumptions about themselves and their organizations. It is one of the most important aspects of helping people and organizations to move forward." As on other courses the managers can learn a lot from each other, so there is a deliberate attempt to achieve a fruitful mix of course members in terms of backgrounds and sector experience.



Putting light on the subject: study sessions in Ashridge's ultra-modern Brindley conference room

The course for Developing Managerial Skills is a three-week one, usually with 25 course members. There are five such courses this year and six next. They were launched at the beginning of this year as a developed replacement for the well-established younger managers programme. The programme is particularly aimed at those with two to five years of experience in their first managerial position, and is designed to improve skills, build confidence and impart an in-depth understanding of business organization, achieving results through people, with the emphasis always on the bottom line where financial results in a company show through.

To develop the programme, the college mounted research among a number of companies to determine what present needs are. This process will continue, Dr Handy said. The programmes, like the economic

climate, are changing all the time.

"Managers at this stage are in many ways the most challenging group. They tend not to have a framework in which to put their ideas and they are still creating a disjunctive style for themselves. They may give the impression of being very confident but often it is very shallow. They need to develop style and the confidence with which to put their ideas across. Demands by companies are changing rapidly, so we are instilling new attitudes and ideas about performance into such future senior managers."

Persuasion and influence

A new trend is for managers to work more as members of a team. Dr Handy explained: "They are having to work through other people rather than just telling them what to

do. They have to be able to persuade and to influence."

Parts of the Managerial Skills Development programmes are projects located outdoors, organized by Endeavour Training. Ashridge has been a leader in using the outdoors as a vehicle for management development.

Over two days, at the end of the first course week, on foot, by bicycle and even by canoe on the nearby Grand Union Canal, groups of course members carry out exercises which demand teamwork, leadership, strategic planning and tactics to achieve a target. The outdoor projects are integrated to play a predetermined role in overall achievement during the course. Dr Handy said: "We believe it is relevant to what people have to do in reality and what people are trying to do."

Programmes covering organizational behaviour have been considerably expanded this year. In addition to programmes on leadership development and interpersonal skills there are two new ones covering effective teamworking skills and performance through people.

The one-week Leadership Development Programmes are designed for middle to upper

level executives managing sizeable business units. It is an adaptation for European demands of a concept originally devised by the Centre for Creative Leadership in North Carolina, with which Ashridge now has active links.

The five-day Performance Through People course is designed for managers taking on the responsibility of managing people for the first time. It gives them a clear framework on how they can achieve better results.

Four courses exploring employee relations have been formulated because this whose area has undergone such immense change in the past few years.

They cover negotiating skills, personnel management, employee relations in various sectors such as manufacturing and finance, and strategic approaches.

Dr Handy said: "A lot of the old values have been challenged. The shape of collective bargaining has changed quite dramatically as have attitudes. It is now less about keeping people happy, but more about improving efficiency."

Derek Harris

Sir Trevor's high-fliers

Next month Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of GKN, will host the college's 25th anniversary dinner and will no doubt cast his mind back to his first visit to Ashridge for the first four-week course for aspiring middle managers.

Sir Trevor was one of 29 junior managers on the first "Ashridge Executive Course" which was the forerunner of the Management Development Programme. Among the other "students" was Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, then working in the economics and statistical department of Distillers. Mr Jenkin will make the keynote speech at the dinner.

Mr Jenkin said his stay at Ashridge on the original course in April 1959 helped in improving "one's appreciation of the role of management activities." At the time he was involved in advising the Distillers group on a range of fiscal, economic, financial and administrative issues.

Since that first course around 8,000 executives have passed through the college on the development programme and the college has been trying to track down the original 29 to invite them to the dinner. Almost all have now been found, and they will be sitting down with a similar number of today's young managers at present on the course.

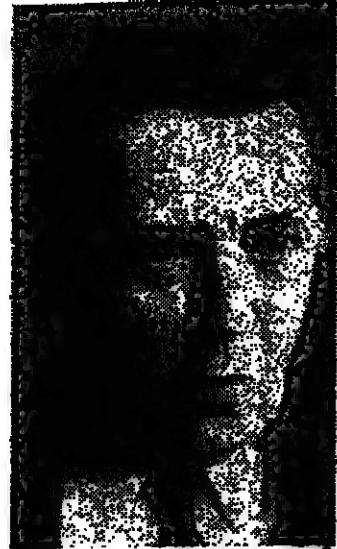
Sir Trevor, who was working for the Bowater paper group when he went to Ashridge, has since become a governor of the college, but remembers well his introduction to management training. "By comparison with present day Ashridge, the course was not very sophisticated. I think they had only one permanent member of staff and the rest were seconded from Shell and other companies."

"But it was very lively and experimental and I suppose we were considered the high fliers. What I found was that in addition to the theory there was a nice mixture of the practical in the course. It gave us the chance of a period mixing with other people and sharing experiences and discussing problems with others", said Sir Trevor.

Sir Trevor, whose course covered most general aspects of management, including personnel, finance and dealing with people, is like many other "old students" in that they have difficulty in pointing to any identifiable practical benefits of their visits to Ashridge, except that they came away feeling that they were better equipped for further and higher management experience.

Hamish Ritchie, director of the C. T. Bowring insurance group, first went to Ashridge as a 31-year-old junior manager in 1973. He is one of the few who believes it may be possible to quantify the benefits of management training. Bowring has been sending more than 100 people on sales and marketing courses and he thinks the company may be able to see the results of the training in higher income by the end of this year.

"That first visit opened my eyes to a lot of things. They emphasized the need to have people running some groups or areas of operations and that idea - that if you want to be successful you have to keep the units small - has stayed with me", said Mr Ritchie, who has returned to the college on several occasions.



Sir Trevor Holdsworth: from student manager to governor of the college

Bowring has an arrangement with Ashridge under which the residential courses are followed up by a tutor holding workshops inside the company at various locations around the country. "I think the courses make people more aware of their surroundings, getting them to ask intelligent questions, and to become more involved in selling themselves and the company", said Mr Ritchie.

Managers agree that one of the chief benefits of a stay at Ashridge is the opportunity to discuss at length problems encountered by managers from different businesses and to ask whether they can learn from other managers' experiences. Mr Ritchie pointed out that until the recession, insurance had been essentially an entrepreneurial business with little demand for management structures and visits to Ashridge had alerted managers to the need for strong disciplines in a more competitive business environment.

Jonathan Paul, managing director of Paula Agriculture, based in Ipswich, paid his first visit to the college in 1980 and came away with "a better understanding about the principles of management, which I am sure makes us able to do our job better. If we understand industrial relations better we

can get greater productivity from our people." Paula Agriculture is part of Pauls and Whites, which employs 2,300 people and has two other divisions specializing in malt manufacturing and flavour and fragrance production. Around 10 managers a year from the group attend courses at Ashridge, ranging in experience from junior managers and managers in their second managerial job.

"The exchange of ideas and experiences with people from other industries is very important. It's a bit like going back to school to learn how to be a better manager," he said. The company also uses Ashridge for its strategic planning exercises and an additional factor in the college's favour, the company argues, is the attractive surroundings which make for a relaxed atmosphere.

Managers at all levels are agreed that it is unusual to attend an Ashridge course for remedial reasons. The acceptance of the need to go to Ashridge is usually associated with the need to learn and expand business experience and knowledge rather than to correct existing failings. As one manager said: "There would be little point in someone with failings going to Ashridge because they most likely would not be good management material."

Bob Sambrook, group personnel director of Willis Faber, international insurance brokers and underwriters, is an Ashridge old boy and helps organize courses for around 45 of the group's senior managers each year. The college runs tailor-made courses for the company, which, said Mr Sambrook, brings about a general increase in the level of managerial understanding.

He agrees with other managers that Ashridge's main contribution is to widen managers' horizons, to make them more receptive to new ideas. "What I found out about myself allowed me to concentrate on the things that I saw could be improved. You may have an idea of areas where you have difficulties, but when someone writes it down on paper it all seems so obvious."

David Felton

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Following the trail of 8,000 executives from around the world

Chalk and talk takes on a new approach

In 1959 the then newly established Ashridge Management College set up the Ashridge Executive Course. It is still going strong, in its now developed form, as the management development programme and claimed to be probably the most consistently successful of any programme of its type.

The claim seems well founded: around 8,000 executives from some 80 different countries have taken this course over the years. In June the 200th course starts its four-week run. The programme is Ashridge's biggest revenue earner, accounting for 17 per cent of all income.

To celebrate the course's quarter century, linking as it does with the college's own 25th anniversary, 14 scholarships for the course are being given by the college to managers from the major charities in Britain. The scholarships are being spread through various courses during this year.

The management development programme is designed as a broadening experience for managers in mid-career. The aim is to help them develop deeper understanding of operational aspects of management and to take a wider view of a company's total operations.

The nature of the course has necessarily changed over the years. Geoff Smith, director of studies for middle management programmes, said: "Twenty-five years ago it was the chalk and talk approach. Now we have structured exercises and a participative course, although all within a framework otherwise it would be too easy for a tutor to opt out and that would be a disaster. We try to get there by practical exercises and structural discussions, while taking in some formal inputs including case studies."

Course director for the management development programme is Martin Scott who has seen company attitudes on middle manager training change radically. At one time much training was regarded as remedial, helping overcome individual weaknesses and bringing managers up to a minimum standard, he pointed out. Now most organizations search for



Changing concepts: Geoff Smith, left, and Martin Scott

people with potential and help them develop it.

It still means much learning occurs at work, possibly buttressed by coaching or distance-learning packages. The short-term pressures inherent in most management work does militate against learning in depth and tends to harness managers to their own speciality.

This is why residential courses by relieving managers of such pressures given the mid-career man - or woman - time to think and explore. There is a deliberate attempt at Ashridge to bring together on the courses a mix of managers from different company backgrounds and from different specialties while all are at a similar stage in their careers.

Mr Smith said: "It means managers can learn from each other as well as the tutors. It is, of course, not just a matter of bringing 30 odd people together; if events are structured carefully to promote participation then there is a lot of learning achieved."

The group for each course is

balanced so that there are not too many from a single company or a particular sector, although Mr Smith regrets there are not more managers of directors of smaller businesses. "We get some women managers on the courses but there are not enough of them either," he added.

The average age of course participants is 37 to 38 and anybody over 45 is in practice rare. Many companies send managers they are planning to promote.

Mr Scott said: "People are most likely to learn things which they see as being relevant to their needs. We help managers reflect on their own jobs and their future aspirations, from this to think about their personal strengths and weaknesses and then to develop their personal learning objectives."

He added: "Different people inevitably have different needs. That can mean different managers will learn different things. The structure of the programme does, however, not only allow

this but encourages it. It also allows for learning to be done in a variety of ways. We recognize that many experienced managers do not learn effectively by listening to lectures."

The final session of the programme concentrates on action planning. Each manager draws up a personal list of actions to be taken as a result of the work at Ashridge, adding a game plan for implementing the actions.

Constant reassessment has led to changes in the course. Work on negotiating skills has been developed because of the increasing demands on managers and customers as well as staff. There are new sessions which explore power, politics and conflict in organizations. Management of temporary task groups is another new focus.

For the past year the course has included a session in which a doctor discusses executive health, particularly in relationship to stress, diet and exercise.

Derek Harris

One of the main growth areas for Ashridge in recent years has been in the college's tailor-made programmes which can be designed to suit the training needs of individual companies, many of which are grappling with management problems associated with business expansion.

It is no coincidence that the growth in the tailor made (TM) sector, to a point where this year it is expected to account for 50 per cent of the college's business, has taken place at a time of recession.

Michael Osbaldeston, director of external relations, explains: "In the 1970s companies were spending money on what could be described as general education. But those companies now wanting to continue investing in management training are much more choosy and are looking for value for money."

The trend away from general management courses has been most notable in four areas of British business, the high technology, financial services, manufacturing and construction industries. This has led to TM programmes contributing around £1.75m last year to the college's income from fees. Almost 2,000 managers from 40 companies were involved in TM programmes last year.

An approach from a company seeking a TM programme can often be the start of a planned training programme which will span several years and several generations of managers. The initial investigation of a company's needs will take a minimum of three months and in some cases up to a year.

Once this survey has been completed, Ashridge will put

Tailor-made training at almost £2m a year

together a training package carefully designed to suit the company. It does not always follow that the problems or gaps in management that a company believes exist will be those identified by the client director and his team allocated by the college.

The largest user of TM programmes is the Ralco group of electronic companies, whose association with Ashridge started five years ago with a training package for 15 employees in the group's communication's arm. This year 190 managers from some of the 60-plus companies in the group will be visiting Ashridge.

For Ralco the college put together a training programme in five segments or "modules" designed to give the company's preponderance of highly qualified engineers management skills to cope with the company's expansion. An indication of the benefits that flow from such programmes would be that many of the middle managers on those early courses are now directors of Ralco companies.

The first module was concerned with general principles of managing people and dealt with the skills needed to motivate staff. Linked closely to that was the second module, which comprised more intensive training, in particular management skills such as

handling meetings and counselling. Each of the components of the programme took the form of a week-long course and the third module in this series was devoted to finance. At that stage Ralco's finance director went to Ashridge to bring a personal touch to the course by lecturing on the company's financial system.

That module, which taught the engineers the skills of budget-making and cost control, was followed by the fourth week during which managers discussed risk analysis, the process of decision-making in areas such as high cost purchasing and the ability to weight advantages against disadvantages, all of which were described as the "tool kits for decision making."

The fifth week's course was developed later than the others, and concentrated on project management; it looked at the financial, marketing and technical aspects of large contracts which the managers might have to run in the future. Those five modules designed for Ralco have now been expanded by further programmes which cater for more senior managers right up to director level.

Another company that has recently used a tailor made programme is TSB Trust Co, which has experienced a rapid growth size and profitability but

had entered a period of uncertainty because the managerial methods of achieving the company's objectives had become unclear. Ashridge designed a two-day workshop for the top 15 managers including the chief executive which ran through a six point course.

The starting point was examination of the managerial framework of the company, running on to awareness of the direct influence of the management culture on behaviour and company performance, a diagnosis of the existing company culture, consequences for company performance, vision building, which incorporated mission identification, and the personal values of top management, and finally the means of making policies become a practical reality.

Two of the client directors for TM programmes, Roger Plant and Mark Ryan, explain in a paper to be published soon that the outcome of the workshop was a statement of aims for a revised management culture.

Plant and Ryan's paper says: "This is clearly only the beginning of the process, but we were excited by just how much was achieved in two days, given the right process and provided there is a genuine and recognized need to shift the culture, as in this case."

"Brian Braun, managing director of TSB Trust Co said to us at the end of the seminar: 'I have never been so unsure of where I was going as I have been, during the last two days, but it was worth it'. We believe it is a very necessary process for any company to take stock of what their culture is and whether it is appropriate for the business they are in," the paper concludes.

D.F.

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What makes crude oil run smooth?

Reshaping after the shake-out

The rapidly changing face of British industry has been forcing many British companies to conduct fundamental reappraisals of the way they operate, and a key element of company reconstruction has been the blurring of traditional management "demarcation lines".

Ashridge has over the last decade developed a series of special programmes in the finance and marketing fields to assist in that process and to widen the business awareness of managers. Changes in attitudes have become necessary with the realization that industry needs to become more competitive and the dramatic impact of new technology on business methods.

The shake-out of British industry over the last five years has led to major changes in managers' attitudes through "management by crisis", according to Martyn Brown, director of marketing programmes. "It's the cold realization of what is happening when you look around and see empty desks that persuades you to start talking to other people in the company", he said.

The new thinking in marketing and finance can form the basis of either open or tailor-made courses. Managers are directed toward more outward thinking and to be more aggressive in climate of stiff international competition.

Peter Beddowes, director of studies said: "After the shake-out we started thinking about what business ought to be going in the future and the message has got through to most boards of directors that we are not going back to the past." Those bad old days of marketing people not talking to the finance department and vice versa, are now being replaced by acceptance that there is an increasing interdependence.

Ashridge has had four main marketing programmes running for the last five years and has just introduced a new

course called Innovative Business Development which aims to encourage the "entrepreneurial and innovative" approach to increasing the understanding managers have of other departments in their companies. Mr Beddowes said that in the past there had been a tendency for marketing departments to be "almost ostracized" by the rest of the company, while marketing staff themselves had little interest in the processes to be gone through before their plans were either accepted or rejected.

Another course offered is the Broad Managers' Development Programme, launched two years ago, which aims to make product managers "financially articulate" and aware of the economic constraints under which company can be operating. The product, or brand, manager is typically an Oxbridge graduate, a potential high flyer who has joined the company from a graduate training course. He or she will be ambitious and will probably argue that they are "interested in pioneering the company forward", according to Mr Beddowes.

The programme will alert them to the fact that this attitude makes them less effective and will encourage them to develop analytical and sales skills. The latter is important because companies now tend to be more reliant on their five biggest customers, and marketing executives ought to be able to understand these customers' difficulties and attitudes. This programme is closely allied to a course which directs marketing managers' attention to customer profitability, changes in the marketplace and analysis of different types of customers.

Another programme introduced two years ago, concentrates on micro-computers and in a three day course managers are told of the impact of changes in office technology. The introduction of more

flexible computer systems means that a wide range of information is now available through desk top visual display screens. New equipment is going to have "a very dramatic impact on the way business is going to be organized", is the Ashridge view.

Traditional accounting procedures are under some threat, because managers in other departments will be able to call up information such as profit and loss statements on their screens. Ashridge carries a range of computer equipment for the 12 leading companies in the UK and is able to offer advice on the best system to suit the needs of a particular business.

"Unless the middle manager adopts the new flexible approach he is in danger of becoming a threatened species. If he hides in his departmental fortress, he becomes vulnerable, but if he takes on these new skills he has a greater contribution to make", Mr Beddowes said. A series of financial courses aims to provide managers with basic financial knowledge and skills rising to programmes for more senior executives on the further financial course.

The marketing and finance programmes also call heavily on outside consultants to bring some variety to the courses. This is especially true in the marketing field, where Ashridge uses three of the biggest advertising agencies and it also calls on the expertise of some research and product development agencies.

One by-product of breaking down barriers between marketing and financial disciplines could well be an increase in tension between respective department managers, and the Ashridge course designers are closely monitoring the situation.

David Felton



Staff group in the Brindley Room: Peter Beddowes (seated, front), Michael Osbaldeston, Roger Plant, Mark Ryan, Martyn Brown, Colin Hastings and Laurence Handy

Putting the management show on the railroad

launched the Glasgow shuttle and for several years ran the airline's entire staff of cabin crews. It is significant, he observes, that his old employers no longer have a staff college of their own.

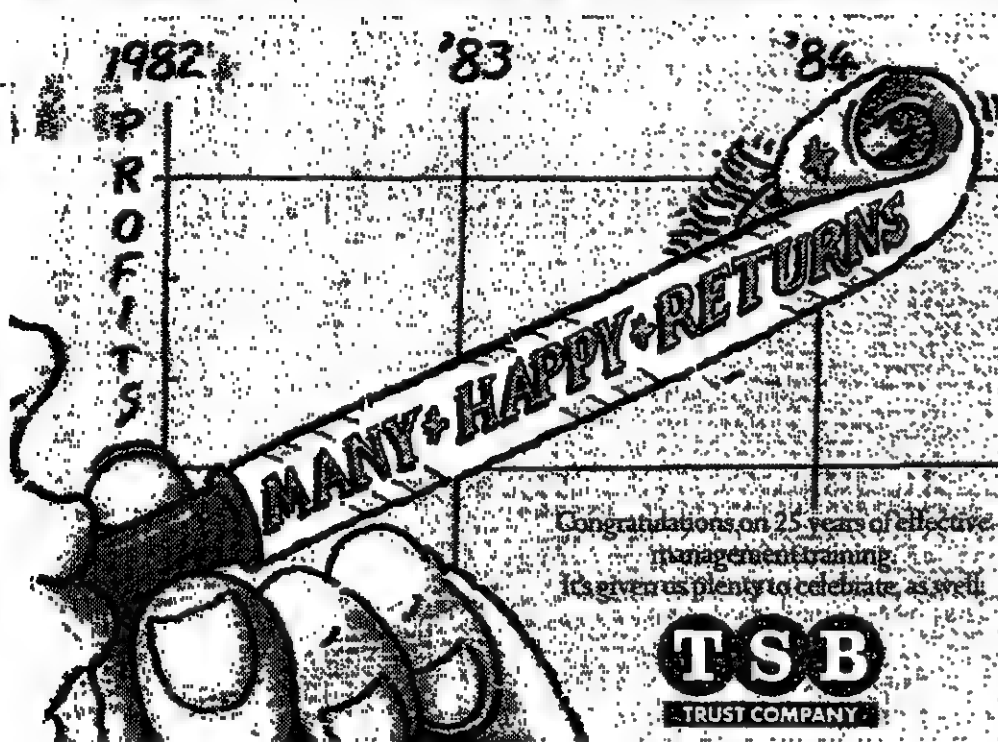
His deputy, Brian Ellison, is a one-time master mariner who has been a port manager at Plymouth and Fleetwood.

Senior transport managers who come on Graham's high-level courses on transport finance, marketing, industrial relations and related topics, will probably have already attended one or more of Ashridge's more general management courses.

The new syllabus, currently in preparation, will show less emphasis on general management and more on the specific requirements of the transport industry.

Quality of academic instruction apart, Ashridge Centre for Transport Management has one other major bonus: you can still get there by train.

Alan Hamilton



Why is it that so many railwaymen go train-spotting on their day off, and why do so many pilots and senior airline managers construct model aeroplanes in their bedrooms, or fly balloons at weekends? You would think they had enough of the job when they were actually doing it.

Is it pride in the job? Certainly. Traditions of loyalty and dedication? Undoubtedly. A genuine and deep interest in, not to say love of, how they earn their crust? There can't be much wrong with that. But such commitment always brings with it the possible attendant danger that railwaymen will only ever see railways, ferryman will only see ships, and those who run airlines will never lower their eyes from the skies.

Transport undertakings, be they railways, municipal buses, airlines or ferries, face so many problems with a common base and so many potential common solutions, that there is great and obvious scope for one to learn

from the other. Problems of flexible rostering on BR? The National Bus Company long ago mastered flexible rostering. Problems on London Transport trying to plan bus services on a computer? British Airways has been plotting flights by computer for years.

Ashridge has had a transport management centre under its roof since 1982, when the old British Transport Staff College at Woking, originally founded before the war by the Southern Railway, closed its doors and moved with its principal, Gordon Beard, to the Chiltern beechwoods. The college is currently being reorganized and its scope broadened to be relaunched shortly as the

Ashridge Centre for Transport Management.

When the BTSC was taken over by the old British Transport Commission in the 1950s, it was intended as a staff college for the entire nationalized transport industry, from British Road Services to Seafair.

Exclusive freemasonry

But over the years it became increasingly railway dominated, and its new proprietors are anxious to recapture that original breadth of interest and build on it.

Richard Graham, its new

director, acknowledges that transport is a highly specialized business, and breeds a kind of exclusive freemasonry among those who work in it. He sees his task largely as one of discouraging the narrowness of vision that can affect managers in individual forms of transport, be it railways or bus companies.

"I want to get them out of their boxes, and to appreciate the common denominators. Three things are common to all transport undertakings: they are highly systematized, their labour force is permanently dispersed, and their managers manage and make their mistakes in full public view."

Graham himself is a former British Airways manager. He

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Pilgrims in search of peace

When Edmund, Earl of Cornwall founded a small monastery among the Chiltern beechwoods at Ashridge 701 years ago, the monks of the College of Bonhommes who walked its cloisters doubtless found its sequestered situation, helped by a daily dose of persecution of the flesh, highly conducive to concentrating the mind.

Today's pilgrims from the world of business who come for enlightenment upon the gospels of management still value the peace that is born from an absence of ringing telephones, but today's doctrine of managerial learning demands not a persecution of the flesh, but a pampering.

Alan Warner, Ashridge's director of administration, runs what amounts to a full-scale four-star hotel, set in its own 250 acres of some of the finest countryside in the Home Counties. "Managers today travel a great deal, and if they come to Ashridge they will not tolerate anything less than the standards they are accustomed to in the best hotels", he said.

That has meant building three new bedroom blocks in the past eight years to provide a total of 150 bedrooms, all single occupancy and all with en-suite bathroom, and a 35-strong housekeeping staff to tend them. There are, Warner, will admit, some very good conference hotels around, but no hotel can match the college's single-minded dedication to one particular type of client.

Ashridge's major current project, however, is the construction of a physical fitness centre dedicated to the pampering of, at worst, the gentle persecution of the flesh, with swimming pool, squash court, sauna and exercise area due for completion later this year. Mental exertion, Warner believes, is sharpened by occasional doses of physical exertion. Another good reason for its provision is that Ashridge takes pride in its catering and extensive wine cellar.

But less it be imagined that Ashridge is gradually transforming itself into some sybaritic health farm, like the celebrated Champneys just down the road, it should be remembered that equal effort is put into providing the best teaching facilities. The college has recently completed a new conference room for between 30 and 100 delegates, and has provided two microcomputer rooms where those on courses can employ the help of the microchip for whatever project they may be engaged on.

Significantly, the college also provides an audio-visual room with closed-circuit television, where managers can receive training in how to handle those troublesome people who hang around their doorsteps at every whiff of trouble - journalists.

But perhaps its outstanding facility is its library, still housed in the same room that housed the books when Ashridge was the stately home of the Earls of Bridgewater and now one of the largest management libraries in the United Kingdom, with a large stock of video material complementing the books.

The house itself, an early nineteenth century Gothic revival exercise by James Wyatt for the seventh Earl of Bridgewater, might be thought a distraction to study, with its sumptuous interior and painted

ceiling in the conference room. Warner thinks not.

"The environment is unique, and is highly effective for getting people to switch off from their everyday routine. The physical peace and quiet is a great help, but so is the fact that our visitors are in surroundings so completely different from the everyday. They do not, in fact, spend long gazing at the painted ceiling when they should be listening to a tutor."

If concentration palls, many means of revival are at hand:

cricket and football pitches, snooker tables, two golf courses on the doorstep or, if solitude is the answer to an overtaxed mind, miles of walking in those magnificent National Trust beechwoods, listening for the ghosts of the monks, of Henry VIII who had the previous house on the site as a residence, or of Bonar Law, in whose memory the Conservative Party's education centre was established here in 1929. However did they all manage without the sauna?

A.H.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Complications in the aerial dogfight

British Airways has not been a soft touch, let alone a pushover, since the accession of Lord King, the appointment of Mr Colin Marshall and the arrival of Mr Gordon Dunlop. It would therefore have been out of character had BA not appealed vigorously to the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Nicholas Ridley, against the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to licence British Caledonian in preference to BA to fly between London and Riyadh. This it did yesterday, describing the CAA's ruling as "a severe, self-inflicted wound on UK civil aviation."

There is one basic issue underlying the dogfight in Saudi airspace between Lord King and Sir Adam Thomson of British Caledonian. How far is the Government, or the CAA justified in trying to strengthen smaller airlines by weakening British Airways? Two years ago there would have been no argument. BA deserved most of what was thrown at it and would have had a poor defence against anything like profitable routes taken away from it. The verdict now is not nearly as simple: in principle because BA has performed extraordinary feats in getting itself into a vigorous commercial shape; in practice because BA is to be privatized next year and for the Government, the seller, it does not make sense to throw sand gratuitously into BA's engines.

The Government is not of course immune to these considerations, as the Minister demonstrated in his time-honoured ducking procedure of asking the CAA to conduct "a wide ranging policy review". BA claims that in granting the Riyadh licence, the CAA not only acted outside its present scope but it also prejudged the outcome of the review. The really worrying doctrine for BA is the CAA's assumption of "competitive imbalance" which should be adjusted by giving another airline preferential treatment whenever a profitable new route becomes available. If carried this doctrine would undoubtedly limit BA's future growth.

The reborn BA and its valuable route structure have caught the interest, the imagination even, of the New York investment community. A piling down of routes coupled with a refusal to grant new licences would dent BA's chances of attracting an American investment following. These are currently good. Waited thither on the expectation of a £250m operating profit for the year ended last week. Lord King is in New York in preparation for a BA board meeting in the Big Apple tomorrow. Showing the flag, however, extends further than the board. The great and good of the New York investment houses will also gather tomorrow in the Intercontinental Hotel to hear the chairman's account of the reviving fortunes of "British Air".

The political choices as they affect BA and British Caledonian are not easy. There is a spirit of deregulation in the air and calls for more competition from Tory backbenchers. On the other hand there is not too much evidence that these splendid concepts have been thought through. Moreover, it is not always clear what the interests are of some MPs who have ranged themselves against BA.

One thing is certain. The British aviation industry is now blessed with some determined, business-minded and dedicated men. Sir Adam Thomson was quick to respond to BA's complaints yesterday. "British Caledonian was awarded the licence to serve Riyadh on its ability to compete effectively from Gatwick", he said, to combat BA's Heathrow argument (which however may impress the Saudis more than it did the CAA). To BA's charge that BCal had postponed starting the service, he said that BCal was waiting for the Saudis "to sign an air services agreement." That may not be the formality it seems, but it does not touch the larger questions of how best to foster both BA and BCal without damaging either.

City changes mind on Gower report

Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower senses a sudden change in City thinking about investor protection. The Square Mile

Establishment spent many months persuading him that the City would not countenance a self-regulatory system based on function rather than trading or commercial groupings. Now the SME appears to have done an aboutface to support his most important proposals.

The City Capital Markets Committee, an informal group of high-powered City individuals much respected by the Bank of England has responded to the Gower Report on Investor Protection with a proposal that an investment protection panel set up to make an immediate start on organizing no more than four self-regulatory agencies; one covering the Stock Exchange; one for non-Stock Exchange dealers in securities; another for investment activities of fund management, including unit and investment trusts; and a fourth covering the commodity and financial futures markets. If responses from other representative organizations (they are coming in at a trickle to the Department of Trade and Industry) follow a similar pattern, the future regulatory framework might well be fashioned as Professor Gower would prefer.

They suggest the investment protection panel would join the takeover panel under the umbrella of a much smaller Council for the Securities Industry, although the Department of Trade and Industry would remain the ultimate arbiter. Such a structure would rule out, at least until the shortcomings were exposed, a statutory American-style Securities Commission.

An early indication of government commitment to changes along these (or indeed any other) lines would clearly help the cause. There is a certain urgency in the insurance area. The Registry of Life Assurance Commissions (ROLAC) was set up to regulate the payment of commissions and incentives to intermediaries in the industry. It has not recruited quite all life companies as members and it is unlikely to start exercising control until the end of the year. The Department of Trade and Industry has said it would be prepared to introduce the minimum statutes needed to police and enforce commission rules should all companies fail to become members. That was three months ago.

ROLAC is a recommended part of Professor Gower's scheme of things and its first Registrar starts work on Monday. He is Mr Malcolm Reid, former head of the Department of Trade and Industry's Financial Services and Companies Division.

Dividends ride the tide

Those who believe that shares, riding high in a long bull market, will continue to outperform most alternative investments, will find encouragement in dividend projections made by the broker, James Capel. Distributions for 1983 are likely to increase by around 15 per cent, which is more than three times the rate of inflation, if the companies (around a half) that have already reported are a true guide. Moreover, the rate of growth in dividends has increased as more companies have reported their 1983 figures.

Fifteen per cent would be well in excess of anything seen since 1979 when dividends were boosted by hefty one-off payments made in the wake of the abolition of dividend controls. Dividends have continued to rise during the recession. Even in 1981, when some leading companies cut their dividends, the total distribution to ordinary shareholders was up on the year before.

On the other side of the coin - and this should be emphasized - the increase in payments to shareholders since 1979 has fallen well behind the rate of inflation. There is a certain amount of catching up implicit in the current round.

In any year it usually happens that companies which report first establish a pattern others follow. Industrial and insurance companies will undoubtedly be raising their dividends as much as they recently can to stave off the possibility of unwanted takeover bids. One final point: thanks to the abolition of the investment income surcharge dividends are henceforth worth much more to many people.

CCF rise confirmed

Consultants (Computer & Financial) has confirmed in its annual report that its pretax profits reached £495,538 in 1983. This is four times the 1982 figure, on turnover which increased by 57 per cent to £2.1m. Shareholders will vote at £2.1m. Shareholders will vote at the annual meeting on April 27 on a proposal to split the ordinary shares and make a four-for-one scrip. The dividend for the year is 6p - twice that of 1982.

Tempus, page 23

Associated Book Publishers increased its pretax profit from £5.58m to £6.28m last year. Turnover rose by £5.5m to £57.25m. The directors have recommended a final dividend of 4.75p, making a total of 7.5p - an increase of 1p.

Tempus, page 23

Report highlights cost of failures

Business loans scheme attacked

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Wide ranging criticisms of the operations of the small business loan guarantee scheme have been expressed by Robson Rhodes, the accountants in an independent report, commissioned and published yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The report is critical of both banks and the borrowers involved in the scheme and is sure to fuel the debate over the future of the pilot scheme which runs until the end of May.

The report released yesterday by Mr David Trippier, under-Secretary of State for small businesses, comes as ministers are reviewing the success of the pilot and deciding whether changes should be made. There is also the possibility that the

guarantee scheme could be abandoned, although this is considered less likely because of the political consequences of doing away with a scheme for small businesses.

Mr Trippier said yesterday that it was encouraging that Robson Rhodes considered the scheme to have been a worthwhile experiment. The report also says that the scheme may be a not too expensive way of financing jobs.

However, the Robson Rhodes study, based on an in-depth examination of 150 borrowers under the scheme backed by a telephone survey of another 100 borrowers, suggests that the failure rate has been running at about one-in-three loans.

Stock Exchange Council split on operating new-style market

By William Kay and Wayne Lintott

A considerable rift has developed within the Stock Exchange Council over the shape of the stock market when the present system of fixed commissions is abandoned next year.

The disagreements partly reflect a rear-guard action by council members who still believe that it was wrong to do a deal with the Government to avoid being taken to court by the Office of Fair Trading.

Much of the impetus for change is coming from the five lay members of the council who were appointed last December with the agreement of the Bank of England.

The council has been debating a draft "green paper" proposing how the Stock Exchange should liberalize its rule

book under the terms of the deal struck last summer with Mr Cecil Parkinson, then Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry. A much modified version should be published by the end of this month.

The council is in broad agreement that the advent of freely negotiated commission will spell the end of the present distinction between brokers and jobbers. The main issue has been the exact nature of the dealing device which will replace that arrangement. It must allow the maximum number of market makers, the greatest liquidity and the highest degree of investor protection.

The radical solution to this would be a fully electronic, computerized system, sup-

plemented by the trading floor. But it may not be possible to devise that in time.

Allied to this is a disagreement over the rate at which fixed commissions are to be dismantled. Some of the "inside" members of the council have expressed disquiet that the incoming lay members have not understood some of the problems.

The five lay members are Mr John Hull of the merchant banking group Schroders, Mr Hugh Jenkins, investment manager of the National Coal Board pension fund, Mr Robin Adam a former BP director who is joining the property group NEPC as chairman, Mr Alan Clements of ICI and Professor Robert Jack of Glasgow University.

Professor Jack has said: "We must avoid the idea that the Stock exchange is a magic circle." Mr Hull commented on his appointment: "The Stock Exchange is not just a club whose members are running their own show."

Although these five newcomers are outnumbered by the 46 other members of the council, their Bank of England backing is a powerful card. The Bank is said to be assembling council members sympathetic to the changes it wants.

One of the most sensitive topics is the speed at which overseas companies should be allowed access to the London stock market and, conversely, how quickly Stock Exchange firms should be allowed to deal freely in overseas securities.



Tidbury: strengthening catering operations.

Whitbread may buy THF inns

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Whitbread, the brewer, is holding talks on the possible takeover from Trusthouse Forte of its 22 Henkeys Inns, most of which are restaurant pubs.

With a substantial number of the properties available with freeholds the deal could probably be worth upwards of £10m.

Trusthouse Forte has been concentrating on core businesses, particularly the hotels. Only nine of the Henkeys outlets have bedrooms and these are no more than smaller hotels.

Whitbread has been expanding rapidly in steak houses with its Beefeater chain which now numbers 150. It has been expanding at well over 30 new outlets a year and the number is expected to be near 200 by the end of this year.

The Henkeys chain would strengthen Whitbread further in the South-east where most of the Henkeys outlets are located although there are a few as far north as Leicestershire and Wolverhampton.

Whitbread under its chairman, Mr Charles Tidbury, has been moving strongly into catering elsewhere. It has a half stake with Pepsico in the Pizza Hut fast food chain which now has around 30 outlets. It also has launched what it hopes will become a chain of Hungry Fisherman outlets, specializing in fish dishes.

Protectionism 'costs' UK £4bn a year

By Our City Staff

Protectionism is costing Britain £4 billion a year, or £70 a person, a study from the Adam Smith Institute reported yesterday.

In the eighth of its Omega series reports, on Trade Policy, the institute called for the scrapping of the Government's foreign trade insurance agency, the Export Credits Guarantee department, and its export promotion agency, the British Overseas Trade Board.

It also advocated the winding up of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the National Economic Development Council. One of the authors of the report, Mr Andrew Hutchison, principal research executive of the Institute of Directors, said at its launch that present policy allowed the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry "a huge amount of discretion" as to which mergers should be allowed to go ahead. That power, he said, must be abolished.

The commission, he suggested should be replaced by "an expanded Office of Fair Trading and a souped-up restrictive practices court for prosecutions" - adding that it was impossible to quantify the cost to the economy of those mergers which are barred for the wrong reasons.

The institute noted that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was soon shortly to make a major pronouncement on trade policy.

Another of the authors, Mr Martin Wolf, director of studies at the Trade Policy Research Centre, said: "Many functions of the DTI are redundant or dangerous."

Among some highly controversial proposals, the study says that, regardless of what other industrially-advanced nations do, Britain should not only limit "voluntary export restraints" agreements (which, for example, limit Japanese car imports), but should also stop sweetening British bids for large industrial goods contracts with export subsidies.

Gibbons chief drops plan to join society

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Clive Feigenbaum, chairman of Stanley Gibbons Holdings, yesterday withdrew his application for re-admission to the Philatelic Traders Society at the eleventh hour.

His withdrawal follows the suspension of Stanley Gibbons' shares before dealing had even officially started in the new shares on the Unlisted Securities Market on Monday.

Doubts are growing in the City that Stanley Gibbons will ever get its public quote at least under the present plans. The plan to raise £10m by issuing shares, organized by Simon & Coates the stockbrokers, is conditional on permission to deal being granted by tomorrow at the latest.

The Society, which expelled Mr Feigenbaum in 1970, expected to consider his re-application to join yesterday at its council meeting but received his letter "shortly before" it began.

The Stock Exchange ordered the suspension of Stanley Gibbons' shares after allegations about the collapse of a stamp business with which Mr Feigenbaum was associated.

The Society represents 900 stamp dealing companies. Six big dealers had threatened to resign if Mr Feigenbaum was readmitted. Yesterday Mr Henry Murray, the Society chairman, declined to comment. A statement from the Society about Stanley Gibbons is likely when the Stock Exchange inquiry is completed.

Three insurers improve profits

Three leading composite insurers, Phoenix Assurance, Guardian Royal Exchange and Sun Alliance, yesterday reported results for 1983 broadly in line with expectations.

At Phoenix, retax profits increased from £17.5m to £23.7m. Underwriting losses fell from £58.6m to £57.8m while

premium income rose from £684.4m to £695.7m. The board is recommending a final dividend of 12.5p, making a total of 19.8p.

Guardian Royal Exchange also reported increased pretax profits - of £122.2m against £106.2m. Underwriting losses fell from £66.1m to £63.5m while total premium income

grew from £967m to £1,041m. An increased final dividend of 13.25p is being recommended, making 23p for the year.

Sun Alliance reported pretax profits of £73.4m against £56.8m. Underwriting losses fell from £70.9m to £67.4m while premium income grew from £789.9m to £884.8m.

Tempus, page 23

Peking sceptical on Hongkong losses

There is more capital flowing into Hongkong than out of it, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said at a press conference in Peking.

China had no comment to make on the decision by Jardine, Matheson to set up a new ultimate holding company in Bermuda, he said yesterday, but gave his own view that it was untrue that large amounts of capital were leaving Hongkong.

Pacific Telesis, part of the former American Telephone and Telegraph network, is one of several companies discussing

NEWS IN BRIEF

buying a stake in Mercury Communications, the private British telephone venture, industry sources said.

National Westminster is to be sole lead manager for a £225m club loan to Total Oil Marine for development of Total's one-third share in the Alwyn North field in the North Sea.

Switzerland, formerly decided yesterday to join "Group of Ten" leading industrial nations within the International Monetary Fund.

The Government has completed its review of procedures for granting exploration and production licences for onshore oil and gas fields.

An unofficial ginger group of minority Shell Oil shareholders has urged them not to accept the \$58 per share increased final takeover offer from the parent Royal Dutch/Shell group.

Hanson in US talks

Hanson Trust was hopeful last night that it would be able to agree take over terms with US Industries at meeting in New York.

Sir Gordon White, the director in charge of Hanson's extensive United States interests, was due to meet his Mr Gordon Walker, counterpart at US Industries, concerning Hanson's tentative bid approach.

Hanson has already told US Industries, which is a widely diversified industrial group, that it is prepared to top a leveraged management "buyout", worth \$407m (£279m) which has already been arranged.

Sir Gordon said: "I cannot imagine they are too happy about our proposal since under the management 'buyout' scheme they would have ended up with 30 per cent of the equity."

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1093.6, down 1.8 (high: 1095.1 Low: 1093.4)
FT Index: 857.8 down 0.6
FT 100 Index: 82.0 down 0.14
FT All Shares: 518.28 down 0.78
Bargains: 31.140
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 112.2 down 0.78
New York Dow Jones Average: (closed) 1147.82 down 0.8
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,002.03 up 68.21
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: Closed
Amsterdam: 172.8 down 0.1
Sydney: AG Index 750.4 up 5.4
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1016.2 down 9.7
Brussels: General Index 148.32 up 0.25
Paris: CAC Index 166.2 down 2.3
Zurich: SBA General 309.8 up 0.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4330 up 0.0015
Index 79.9 up 0.2
DM 3.75 up 0.0125
Fr 11.8250 up 0.0360
Yen 263 up 1.25
Index 127.0 up 0.1
DM 2.6170 up 0.0048
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4330
Dollar DM 2.6180
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.595493
SDR £0.742713

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 8%
Finance Houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 8 - 8%
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 10 1/4 - 10 1/8
3 month DM 8 1/4 - 8 1/8
3 month Fr 13 1/4 - 13%
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10 1/8
Treasury long bond 95 - 95 1/8
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 1984 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
pm \$380.50 pm \$381.25
Close \$381.50 - \$382
(\$266.25 - \$266.75)
New York (latest): \$381.25
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$380.50 - \$381.25 (\$25 - \$25.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$380.50 - \$381.25 (\$25 - \$25.50)
*Excludes VAT

Brazil spells out social cost of rescheduling

By John Lawless

Brazil's ambassador to London, Senhor Mario Gibsons-Barbosa, disclosed yesterday the social costs his country was facing in complying with an internationally-imposed debt rescheduling.

"In our case," he said, "a shock austerity programme means unemployment, malnutrition, infant mortality and even urban violence. It could mean, at any moment, a fuse being set to inflame a social backlash, with unpredictable consequences."

Brazil, he said, had the choice "to abide by the rules of the game, even if those rules do not prove to be entirely fair; or to withdraw from the game; and defy whatever consequences might arise."

"We can only hope," said a business source, "that the annual meeting of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in Brazil, 'Ihai Argentina is listening'."

Argentina - having last week been given a \$500m bridging loan by the US and four South American neighbours, including Brazil - meets with its main international creditors in New York again next Monday and Tuesday.

Those talks will deal with foreign debts of \$43.5 billion (£30.7 billion). Bankers recognized that although the loan kept Argentina from falling over a financial precipice, it is still close "to the edge" and that progress must now be seen to be made both with them and the International Monetary Fund.

Mitsui Finance Europe Limited

is pleased to announce its change of name to

Mitsui Finance International Limited

as from 2nd April, 1984

Mitsui Finance International Limited
is a major international merchant banking subsidiary of
THE MITSUI BANK, LIMITED, TOKYO

Mitsui Finance International Limited

51 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA

Tel: 588-4672 Telex: 886107

COMPAGNIE BANCAIRE

Société Anonyme
Incorporated in France with limited liability
Regd. Office: 5 avenue Kléber, Paris 16ème.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The shareholders of Compagnie Bancaire are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 26th April, 1984 at 3.00 p.m. at the Head Office, 5 avenue Kléber, Paris 16ème, to consider the following Agenda:

- The Report of the Board of Management.
- The Report of the Supervisory Board.
- The general report of the Auditors.
- The special report of the Auditors in accordance with Article 143 of the Law of 24th July, 1966.
- The examination and approval of the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the financial period 1983.
- The appropriation of profits and the fixing of the dividend.
- The Prorogation of the duties of a Censeur.
- The authorisation to the Board of Management to issue bonds to a total of fr. 5 billion.
- Any other business.

In order to attend or be represented at the Meeting, owners of registered shares must have entered on the register five clear days prior to the Meeting. Holders of bearer shares must deposit, at least five clear days prior to the Meeting at the Head Office, the certificate of deposit, issued by the bank, financial institution or stockbroker with whom their shares are lodged.

Shareholders who wish to attend the Meeting are requested to make advance application to the Company for an admission card.

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A Prime Investment let to a first-class Blue Chip Company.
Freshhold 17,138 sq ft HQ
Complex 8 miles from Heathrow
Completion April 1984
Total purchase price £1.05m

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Golders, Surrey, GU1 4AA
0433 3731

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalrymple Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 16th day of May 1984 at 2.30 p.m. for the following purposes:
To consider the accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 1983 and the Report of the Directors and Auditors.
To elect Directors.
To fix the remuneration of Directors.
To pass, if thought fit, the following Resolutions recommended to the Members by the Directors:
"That the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year be fixed by the Directors of the Society."
To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.
Form of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting.
CMCAVAY
General Manager and Secretary
15 Dalrymple Road, Edinburgh
EH8 7JH
3rd April 1984
NOTE: A copy of the Report will be sent on request to any member who would like to have one.

£4.5m record for Queens Moat as brokings pick up

By Jonathan Clare

Business travellers are on the move and flocking to Queens Moat Houses' hotels even in depressed areas like the Midlands. As a result the company expects a substantial increase in profits this year.

Yesterday, Mr John Bairstow, the chairman, reported record profits of £4.5m against £2.8m for last year on the back of new hotels and record occupancy rates.

Last year saw the first 12-month contribution by the hotels bought from Grand Metropolitan and a record year for the Drury Lane Hotel in London, acquired two months into the year.

The company has spent £55m on hotels over the last year, financed by rights issues and last December's debenture issue. But Mr Bairstow promised yesterday that there would be no cash call to shareholders for the foreseeable future; they also get the benefit of a one for five scrip issue.

The Saxon hotel chain, acquired from Furness Withy, made an insignificant contribution to last year's results, but

is expected to perform strongly this year under Queens Moat Houses' management. The number of visitors this year is already up in every hotel in the group although January and February are normally quiet months.

The group's property has been revalued at £100m to give a surplus of between £10m and £15m which has reduced Queens Moat Houses' historically high gearing to 74 per cent. "But if you disallow the convertible loanstock it comes down to 53 per cent", said Mr Bairstow.

The business travel industry is still affected by discounting and difficulties in filling space over weekends. Queens Moat Houses is trying to promote weekend business conferences which include a social event like a dinner and dance to encourage delegates to bring their spouses.

The total dividend for the year has been increased almost 10 per cent to 1.33p. Mr Bairstow said this dividend would be paid this year on the enlarged capital. The shares rose 1p to 45p on the news.

BioTechnica raises £1.8m to fight pollution

A company which believes it can tackle environmental pollution by using biotechnology and microtechnology techniques has raised £1.8m from institutional investors.

Biotechnica has three programmes to exploit the commercial use of "microbial communities" to reduce pollution from chemical and other waste products; to produce methane from landfill rubbish tips; and to improve the productivity of various agricultural and forestry projects.

Biotechnica, which was established in 1982 after negotiations between two British scientists and BioTechnica International of Massachusetts, is setting up a laboratory in Cardiff. The cash was raised by the English Association trust through placing 48 per cent of the shares with institutions at £1.2m plus £600,000 of convertible preference shares.

The two scientists are Professor Howard Slater, of University of Wales Institute of Technology, and Dr Richard Le Page, of Cambridge University. BioTechnica will collaborate closely with the United States company.

APPOINTMENTS

London Gold Futures Market names chief

The London Gold Futures Market: Mr Robert Beale is the new chairman. The new board members are Mr P. G. Smith and Mr J. P. A. Wolff, London Metal Exchange representatives, and Mr J. A. Spall, representing the London Gold Market. They replace Mr C. J. B. Green, Mr J. K. Lion and Mr M. Roberts who have retired. Mr R. D. Gee and Mr K. Smith remain on the board.

Standard Chartered Merchant Bank: Mr J. E. Lynn, Mr J. E. Turner and Mr S. F. Westmacott have become senior assistant directors. Mr G. A. Bootham, Mr W. H. Dinning, Mr M. H. Gidney, Mr J. W. Gristwick, Mr D. J. Holmes, Mr C. J. J. Lawrence and Mr M. G. Thresh were appointed assistant directors.

Bradbury Wilkinson: Mr Clive Brady has joined as deputy chairman and group chief executive, and Mr Bernard Green as group financial director.

David Sheppard & Partners: Mr A. B. X. Fenwick has joined the board.

Cow & Gate: Mr Leonard Osborn has been appointed British sales director.

Chandos Insurance Company: Mr David Hart has

become assistant general manager.

Jamesbury: Mr Arthur Kettle has been appointed managing director. Mr Bill Perry becomes director of engineering and Mr Joe Paparella becomes chairman.

Jardine Thompson Graham: Mr A. C. Liddle is to retire as a director and managing director of the non-marine division. Mr A. J. Gordon, a director of the company, has been appointed managing director of the non-marine division in succession. Mr S. C. Smapson will become a director and managing director of the marine division.

Victoria Wine Company: Mr Eric Colwell has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr Michael Jackman.

Geoffrey Morley & Partners: Mr N. Pilkington succeeds Mr C. G. Morley as chairman. Mr Morley remains of the board.

County Bank: The following have been appointed assistant directors: Mr Steven Grundy and Mr Simon Miller, marketing group of business development; Mr Peter Binder and Mr Nicholas Wells of the corporate advisory division; Mr Garry Frier and Mr Stephen White of the finance division and Mr Michael Wickham of the international division.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BURNETT & HOLDINGS:** Burnett's Mining Division parent company, the Mining Investment Corporation, ("Mincorp") has set up a new subsidiary - Mincorp Trading - to handle Mincorp's international coal trading operations within Europe, North Africa and the Near East.

● **PRESTWICH PARKER HOLDINGS:** Board has decided to dispose of its subsidiary, Prestwich Parker (Fasteners) by June 30 the end of its financial year. If it is not sold by that date, manufacturing will cease. Total group profit for the six months ended December 31 1983 was £128,264, after charging trading losses of £101,234 by Preswch Parker (Fasteners) in the four months to October 31.

● **ATLANTIC RESOURCES:** Shareholders approved share split at a general meeting. Directors refused to comment on rumours about the offshore Waterford appraisal well.

● **BIOTECHNICA - PLACING:** The English Association Trust has raised £1.8m for Biotechnica through the subscription by leading financial institutions of £1.2m for ord. shares representing 48 per cent of the equity, and £600,000 for pref. shares.

● **EATON CORP:** Eaton Corp. has acquired the Bunker Ramo electronic systems division from Allied Corp. The transaction includes all the division's businesses, with the exception of the antismine warfare project line.

● **BR. LAND CO-CONRAD RITBLAT:** British Land has completed the reorganization of its interest in Conrad Ritblat.

● **KAKUZI SALE OF INTEREST:** Company has sold its 14.04 per cent interest in Credit Finance Corp. for Kenya.

COMPANY ANALYSIS THE TIMES EVERY DAY

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/4%
Barclays	8 1/4%
BCCI	8 1/4%
Citibank Savings	9%
Consolidated Crds	8 1/4%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	8 1/4%
Nat Westminster	8 1/4%
TSB	8 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/4%

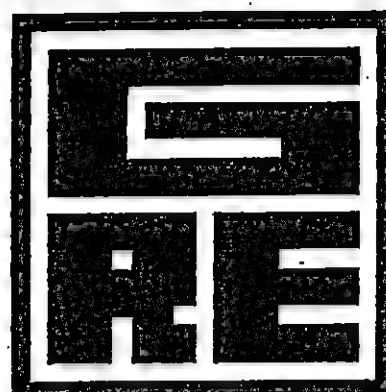
† Mortgage Rates:

● Five year fixed rate of interest 10.00%, five year floating rate 10.00%, six month floating rate 7.75%.

Scottish Life Investments INSURANCE FUNDS

Net Managed	884	Offer
Property	98.5	104.1
UK Equity	98.5	104.1
European	98.5	104.1
Pacific	98.5	104.1
International	101.7	106.6
Fixed Interest	95.5	102.4
Index Linked	95.5	102.4
Deposit	95.4	100.5
Growth	95.4	100.5
Per Managed	95.4	100.5
Per Property	95.4	100.5
Per UK Equity	100.0	104.1
Per European	98.9	104.1
Per Pacific	98.9	104.1
Per International	102.5	106.6
Per Fixed Int	95.5	102.4
Per Index Link	95.5	102.4
Per Deposit	95.7	100.9

Scottish Life
19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh
Telephone: 031-225 2211



Results for 1983

Subject to audit the results of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc for the year ended 31st December, 1983 are as follows:

	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Investment Income	178.5	166.3
Less Interest Payable	11.0	11.2
	167.5	155.1
Underwriting Results		
Short-term (Fire, Accident and Marine)	(63.5)	(66.1)
Long-term	18.1	17.2
	(45.4)	(48.9)
Profit before taxation	122.1	106.2
Less taxation	51.6	43.3
Profit after taxation	70.5	62.9
Less Preference dividend and Minority Interests	3.6	3.6
Profit after taxation available to Ordinary shareholders	66.9	59.3
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 7.75p per share	12.2	11.0
Proposed Final 15.25p per share	23.9	19.6
Total	36.1	30.6
Profit transferred to Retained Profits	£30.8m	£28.7m
Earnings per Ordinary share (after taxation)	42.6p	37.7p

Results by Territories (before taxation)

	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Australia	89.3	0.4	11.6	68.6	(1.6)	8.5
Canada	80.9	(5.2)	13.5	71.3	(8.3)	12.0
Germany	150.5	(6.7)	18.7	143.9	(4.6)	17.2
Republic of Ireland	19.5	(4.2)	4.7	23.2	(4.6)	3.8
South Africa	41.0	(0.7)	4.6	37.5	0.1	4.3
U.K.	389.0	(26.7)	77.1	378.4	(29.1)	73.7
U.S.A.	113.2	(10.7)	9.3	74.7	(5.7)	9.2
Miscellaneous	158.5	(9.7)	28.0	169.4	(12.3)	26.4
	1,041.9	(63.5)	167.5	967.0	(66.1)	155.1

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies including protection under the worldwide stop loss arrangements. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown opposite:

	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Australia	(1.9)	0.4
Canada	2.2	(2.7)
South Africa	0.5	1.2
Others	(1.9)	0.6
	(1.1)	(0.5)

Exchange Rates

	1983	1982		1983	1982
Australia	1.61	1.65	Germany	3.96	3.85
Canada	1.81	1.99	Rep. of Ireland	1.28	1.16
			South Africa	1.77	1.74
			U.S.A.	1.45	1.62

The pre-tax profits are the highest ever achieved by the Group and show an increase for the fourth successive year.

Despite difficult trading conditions there is a marginally lower underwriting loss when compared with 1982. Canada and the United Kingdom produced lower underwriting losses and small underwriting profits were made in Australia, France, Cameroon, Pakistan, the Middle East, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

Cash flow was affected particularly by the underwriting experience in the United Kingdom and investment income advanced at a reduced pace. The declaration of a special bonus on certain policies issued by Guardian Assurance plc, the shareholders' proportion of which amounted to £4.0m, has contributed to record profits from long-term business.

Written premiums and investment income have increased by 7.7% and 8.0% respectively. During 1983 sterling has weakened against the dollar in Australia, Canada and the United States, but strengthened against most other currencies; in local currency terms, written premium growth was 6.8% and investment income growth was 6.7%.



Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

An insurance service worldwide



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON INSURANCE plc

The audited results for 1983 are as follows:

	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Premium Income	884.8	789.9
General Insurance	884.8	789.9
Long-term Insurance	294.3	208.0
	1,179.1	997.9
General Insurance Underwriting Result	(67.4)	(70.9)
Long-term Insurance Profits	8.5	7.0
Investment Income	131.3	119.9
Other Income	1.0	0.8
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	73.4	56.8
Taxation	26.3	20.3
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	47.1	36.5
Minority Interests	1.1	0.5
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	46.0	36.0
DIVIDEND	27.6	23.7
PROFIT RETAINED	18.4	12.3
EARNINGS PER SHARE	93.3p	73.0p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	56.0p	48.0p

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF GENERAL INSURANCE RESULTS

	1983	Underwriting Result	1982	Underwriting Result
	Premium Income	£m	Premium Income	£m
United Kingdom & Ireland	421.8	(7.0)	362.3	(12.9)
Europe	90.5	(9.1)	90.8	(11.1)
U.S.A.	109.8	(11.8)	87.0	(11.4)
Canada	36.4	(0.5)	36.8	(7.2)
Australia	35.8	(9.1)	34.3	(10.1)
Other Overseas	71.4	(1.5)	59.8	(2.3)
Reinsurance	43.0	(28.4)	45.7	(14.2)
Marine & Aviation (worldwide)	76.1	—	73.2	(1.7)
	884.8	(67.4)	789.9	(70.9)

UNDERWRITING RESULTS

General business premium income increased by 12.0%. Excluding the effect of changes in exchange rates the increase was 10.4%.

At Home, marginal underwriting surpluses were achieved in the commercial property and household accounts but there was a further deterioration in motor experience.

In Europe results improved in Denmark and Germany but there were increased underwriting losses in Belgium and Holland.

Results in the U.S.A. were adversely affected by severe weather losses and by further strengthening in reserves for medical malpractice claims.

In Canada claims experience was unusually favourable and the property and automobile accounts showed substantially improved results despite some deterioration in the final quarter.

As reported at the half year, the Australian result was seriously affected by the cost of the February bush fires which largely offset the improvement in workers' compensation business.

The heavy loss on inwards reinsurance business reflects the highly unsatisfactory state of the reinsurance market and action already taken to curtail our reinsurance operations is expected to reduce the level of losses in the future.

LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Life and pensions business in the U.K. enjoyed a very successful year. New annual premiums rose by 12.7% to £48m and single premiums by 6.9% to £49m.

Shareholders' profits increased by 21% to £8.5m.

INVESTMENTS

Investment income rose by 9.5%. The growth, allowing for changes in exchange rates, was 7.1%.

The Group's solvency margin again benefited from rising stock markets and at the end of the year was 125%.

DIVIDEND AND SHARE CAPITAL

The Directors have resolved to declare at the Annual General Meeting on 16th May, 1984 a total dividend of 56.0p per £1 share in respect of the year 1983. An interim dividend of 22.0p per share was paid on 5th January, 1984 and the final dividend of 34.0p per share will be paid on 5th July next.

It is proposed to sub-divide the £1 shares into 25p shares at an Extraordinary General Meeting following immediately after the Annual General Meeting and if this proposal is approved by shareholders the final dividend will be paid at the rate of 8.5p per 25p share.

The above statement is a summary of the year's results. The full Report and Accounts, which contain an unqualified Report of the Auditors, will be posted to shareholders on 14th April, 1984 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

4th April, 1984.

4th April 1984

Jonathan Davis speculates on who will gain in British Rail's cross-Channel auction

Sealink prepares to set sail under private flag

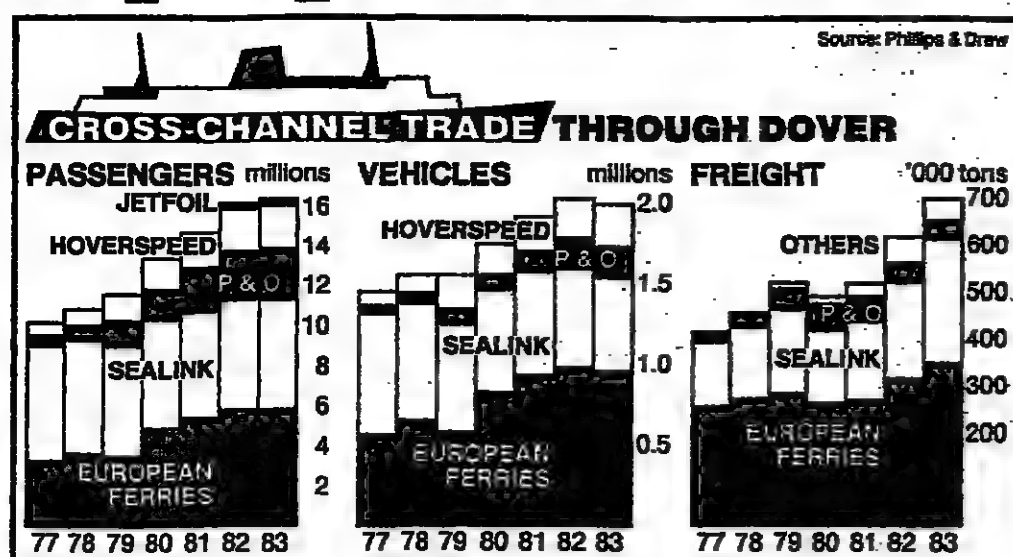
With two waves of its privatizing wand, the Government has in the last few weeks signalled the start of what could turn out to be a fundamental and far-reaching reshuffle of ownership in Britain's cross-Channel shipping business, the ripples of which will be felt by millions of holidaymakers.

The Government's first step came seven weeks ago when it effectively engineered a management buyout of Hoverspeed, the loss-making hovercraft operation formerly owned jointly by British Rail and the Swedish Brostroms group. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, refused to allow British Rail to extend its guarantee of Hoverspeed's £4m overdraft, leaving the way open - once Brostroms also decided to cut its losses - for a rather surprised management to step into the breach with its own offer, arranged at short notice.

Now the Government has followed up with a more deliberate and long-awaited step, the start of a corporate auction to find a buyer for Sealink, British Rail's ferry and harbour business. About a dozen interested parties have this week been sent a copy of a 50-page confidential memorandum of information about Sealink's activities.

The Government's target is to complete the sale of the whole company as a single unit by the end of June, conveniently in time for the start of this year's July to September peak holiday season.

The history of previous privatization ventures suggests that this target may well prove optimistic. Apart from the natural tendency of deadlines to slip, the National Union of Railwaymen and other unions are threatening to muddy the



waters by organizing a campaign of industrial action against the Sealink sale. Even if there are delays, however, there is little doubt that by the end of the year the Government will have finally succeeded in its aim of taking British Rail out of the cross-Channel business, ending an involvement that dates back to nationalization in 1948.

This will be a significant change. Despite the steady erosion of its market share by European Ferries and P & O since the end of the 1970s, British Rail's presence in the cross-Channel market was, taking Sealink and Hoverspeed together, still a substantial one at the start of this year.

On the key Dover routes, for example, which account for 60 per cent of all Continental traffic, British Rail had more than 40 per cent of both passenger and vehicle traffic last

year, according to the stock-broker firm Phillips & Drew. In the freight market, traditionally dominated by European Ferries, Sealink has actually marginally increased its share of the business in the last few years.

Sealink also has extensive ferry interests on other routes. In all, taking into account its pooled operations with SNCF, the French railways and two other Continental operators, it ran 24 routes last year, including services to Ireland, Holland, France, Belgium, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. It also owns seven harbours: Harwich, Folkestone, Newhaven, Fishguard, Holyhead, Heysham and Stranraer.

As with a number of other privatization issues, the Government has drawn back from the most radical options in deciding how to dispose of Sealink. P & O was one group which argued at the time of the

blocked European Ferries bid for Sealink four years ago that the best way to stimulate competition in the cross-Channel business was to break Sealink up and dispose of its routes one by one to rival operators.

Others have argued that at the very least the Government should have off Sealink's ferry and harbour interests as separate businesses.

In the end, Mr Ridley has come down on the side of British Rail - and Sealink's own management - in keeping the company intact, although he did veto British Rail's original plans to keep a minority stake in Sealink as a prelude to an eventual stock market flotation of the company.

On the face of it, considering the Government's repeated declaration that greater competition is the driving thrust behind its privatization pro-

gramme, the decision to sell Sealink as it is looks odd.

Pragmatic considerations appear to have played a considerable part in the decision breaking Sealink up would have taken longer to implement, and could well have left the Government with the problem of what to do with some of the less attractive assets which the private sector might not have wanted to buy. An immediate stock market flotation also looked problematical, given Sealink's uneven trading record.

As it is, the impact on the market will clearly vary depending on who the successful bidder turns out to be. Of the five main contenders that have been identified publicly, two - European Ferries and P & O - would clearly result in a concentration rather than a dilution of ownership if their bids succeeded.

The other three, Trafalgar House, Sea Containers and the National Freight Corporation/James Fisher consortium would introduce an important new force into the market.

The competitive situation is complicated further however by the fact that Trafalgar House has been casting its predatory eye over all three of the main cross-Channel operators, in the last few months, European Ferries as well as Sealink and P & O.

Clearly the bidders all have different motives. Having seen its previous bid blocked, European Ferries must be dubious whether it now will be allowed to succeed. Its interest may be as much defensive as positive.

P & O, on the other hand, whose ferries have lost money steadily for the last four years, and whose three ships are showing signs of age, the chance

Pretax profits of ferry interests					
£m	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
European Ferries	16.7	9.7	1.9	12.8	15.0
Sealink	4.7	(3.8)	(11.1)	(6.4)	4.5
P & O Ferries	n/a	(8.1)	(6.7)	-	0.6
Total	n/a	2.2	(15.9)	6.4	21.5

*Including harbour profits * estimates

to buy Sealink holds out the prospect of a sudden boost to its cross-Channel fleet at a time when it is still worried about the possibility of a renewed bid from Trafalgar House.

Before the Sealink auction was launched two weeks ago, there was considerable speculation among analysts that Mr Jeffrey Sterling, P & O's chairman, might pull out of cross-Channel ferries altogether.

On ideological grounds, the National Freight consortium, which was put together by the merchant bank Charterhouse Japhet, must be regarded as the favourite to win the auction, if only because it has secured the backing of the Sealink management, which is promising considerable share ownership incentives to Sealink employees.

The National Freight management buyout two years ago is still regarded by ministers as one of their most successful achievements in the privatization field. The doubt must be whether the consortium can afford the price that other bidders such as Trafalgar House and European Ferries might be prepared to pay.

What is agreed by all the parties concerned is that Sealink, despite its poor record, has considerable potential for profits and earnings growth under new management. In the past, it has suffered from relative neglect at the hands of British

Rail's management whose attentions have often been elsewhere.

Whitehall interference and government cash limits have compounded marketing problems and bureaucratic delays in implementing decisions. It was only in 1982, for example, that Sealink finally appointed a marketing director, a surprising omission for a business that depends so heavily on attracting new custom in a competitive market.

Comparisons with European Ferries show that Sealink's record on productivity and performance, while it has improved since the 1981 price war, is still some way behind that of its main competitor. Between 1979 and 1982, for example, sales per employee increased from £19,300 to £25,200, while at European Ferries the comparable figure increased from £26,300 to £37,200.

Although Sealink has by no means been starved of investment for new and more comfortable ships under British Rail, its growth potential will be determined by the amount of new investment, productivity gains and manpower reductions that its new owners can wring out of the business. The market as a whole is still suffering from overcapacity, despite the recent signs of a modest revival in demand.

Higgs and Hill push profits up by 31%

By Ian Griffiths

Higgs and Hill, the international construction and property group, has increased pretax profits for the year to December, 1983, by 31 per cent to £6.06m. It is broadly in line with the directors' predictions when the company made a £5.9m rights issue this year.

The directors have also kept their promise to recommend a final dividend of 7p, a 22 per cent increase on 1982's 5p payout. Even with the increase number of shares, the rights issue was one for four - Mr Brian Hill, the chairman and chief executive, predicted that the dividend would be maintained this year.

The proceeds of the rights issue will be used to expand the company's operating base and could involve acquisitions, particularly on the housing side where Higgs and Hill enjoyed a significant increase in both profit and turnover last year.

Turnover for the group as a whole in 1983 increased by a little over £10m to £169.71m, even though the market conditions remained difficult.

All operating divisions contributed to profit, although the results from the French development companies fell well short of the directors' expectations. The explanation given was a weakness in the French investment market.

Premier in £675,000 buyout

By Jeremy Warner

Premier Drum company of Wigston, near Leicester, which was put into receivership last October owing more than £2m, is being bought back by its management for £675,000 with backing from Midland Bank Industrial Finance and Scottish Allied Investors.

Founded by Albert Della Porta in 1922, Premier was one of the world's leading manufacturers of percussion instruments including drums, xylophones, tubular bells and cymbals, before it ran into difficulties last year.

In a deal announced yesterday, 10 executives are buying the company from the receiver, Mr Richard Stone, of Cork Gully, Birmingham, for £675,000.

Midlands Bank Industrial Finance and Scottish Allied Investors are supporting the buyout with £70,000 or share capital each. They are also providing £180,000 each in loan stock. The Royal Bank of Scotland will be the company's banker, providing overdraft facilities of £500,000.

Although the buyout team did not have enough money to take control immediately, it will gain it eventually as the company progresses through a special scheme structured by Spicer and Pagler, the chartered accountants.

The company, which numbers The Who, Pink Floyd, Elton John, Status Quo, the London Philharmonic, the USSR State Orchestra and the Coldstream Guards among its customers, intends to rename itself, Premier Percussion to reflect the full range of its products.

Mr Mick McLoughlin, the company's managing director, said: "We have new products in the pipeline and are actively tackling new markets."

"We have made a breakthrough in the American market where the nationwide Drum Corps movement offers great opportunities. We expect to achieve sales of about £4m in our first year and to be a substantial employer in Wigston."

Thorn sheds US lighting business

Thorn EMI Lighting, one of Europe's largest lighting manufacturers, and the North Star Company of Illinois, said yesterday that the Thorn EMI US floodlighting business, including all tooling and American marketing rights, will be transferred to North Star on June 1.

The high intensity discharge product lines include sealed beam metal halide, double ended metal halide, double ended high pressure sodium and low pressure sodium for security and street lighting.

These are at present being produced at Thorn EMI's plant at Fairfield, New Jersey.

Mr Joe Pollock, commercial director of Thorn EMI Lighting, said that his company believed that the US market could be developed more rapidly by North Star, which had a wider

product base and sales organization.

Mr Pollock added: "North Star's reputation for producing quality light products and marketing them through a strong national sales organization is respected throughout the industry."

According to Mr Charles P. Currie, president of North Star: "The addition of the Thorn EMI product line provides a wider marketing scope."

These quality specified Thorn EMI products will complement our present capacity of more than 40 lines of commercial, industrial, arena and sports lighting products."

The two companies have also entered into an agreement to ensure adequate replacement parts including lamps for present Thorn EMI installations.

Ward White buys £8.7m stake in US group

Ward White, the Tuf shoe company run by Mr Philip Birch, has taken a big stake in Wiener, an American shoe store and clothing company traded on the US over-the-counter market.

Ward White acquired a 44.7 per cent holding by buying out Sander Wiener and Merle Aronson and their families for \$12.6m (£8.7m).

Wiener operates four shoe shop chains and "men's and

women's apparel" stores in the New Orleans Metropolitan area, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Arkansas and Florida.

In the year to January Wiener made profits of £3.2m on a turnover of £35.5m. Net assets are about £8m. Ward White's shares come with the rights to dividends of more than £100,000.

The deal is being financed by a medium-term loan

'Good start' at B and P

Mr David Macdonald, chairman of The Bath and Portland Group, said at yesterday's annual meeting: "As far as the current year is concerned we are looking to make further progress, and I am happy to say that so far we are ahead of budget with a particularly good

start having been made in our minerals division."

"The position at Meditech is more encouraging with the production machine in France now performing well both in terms of quality and reliability. This has meant the release to us of a second stage payment."

LASMO optimistic on prices

Mr Geoffrey Searle chairman of London & Scottish Marine Oil, commented in his annual statement yesterday: "Prospects for oil and gas prices now appear more favourable than a year ago."

This year, he said, British tax payments will not be so high as last year and cash flow should comfortably exceed the expected £90m capital expenditure.

The company had established the foundation for continued growth in many parts of the world.

Mr Chris Greentree, chief executive, commenting on exploration in new areas which can yield early profitable production.

He noted "we attracted to areas where profitability is enhanced by a more reasonable tax regime than in the UK."

In brief

● **EUROPEAN BANKING GROUP** yesterday reported a 35 per cent rise in pretax profits to £30.8m (£21.5m) in 1983, its first year of combined operations. The rise was despite higher bad debt provisions against loans to some of the troubled debtor countries. European Banking is a consortium owned by seven banks, including the Midland.

● **GLOBAL NATURAL RESOURCES:** Audited net income for 1983, \$1.46m (£1m) or six cents per share (1982, \$30.9m or \$1.39 per share loss). Oil and gas sales, \$41.1m (\$36.1m). Income from operations, \$1.8m (\$2.6m loss).

● **DUNTON GROUP (USM quote):** Half-year to November 30, 1983. Turnover £323,000 (£616,000). Pretax profit £47,000 (£43,000). Mr Alan Sore, chairman, believes second half will be in line with first. Following year, however, will benefit from trebled brick production, sales of the sheltered homes and a full year of operating the waste disposal site.

● **FLOYD OIL PARTICIPATIONS (USM quote):** Half-year to December 31, 1983 (comparison restated). Turnover £310,000 (£120,000). Pretax profit £39,000 (loss £38,000). No dividend (share).

● **ASTBURY & MADELEY (HOLDINGS):** Results for 1983. Turnover £12.46m (£12.27m). Profit, after all charges, £1.33m (£1.21m). Total dividend 5.5p (5p) net share.

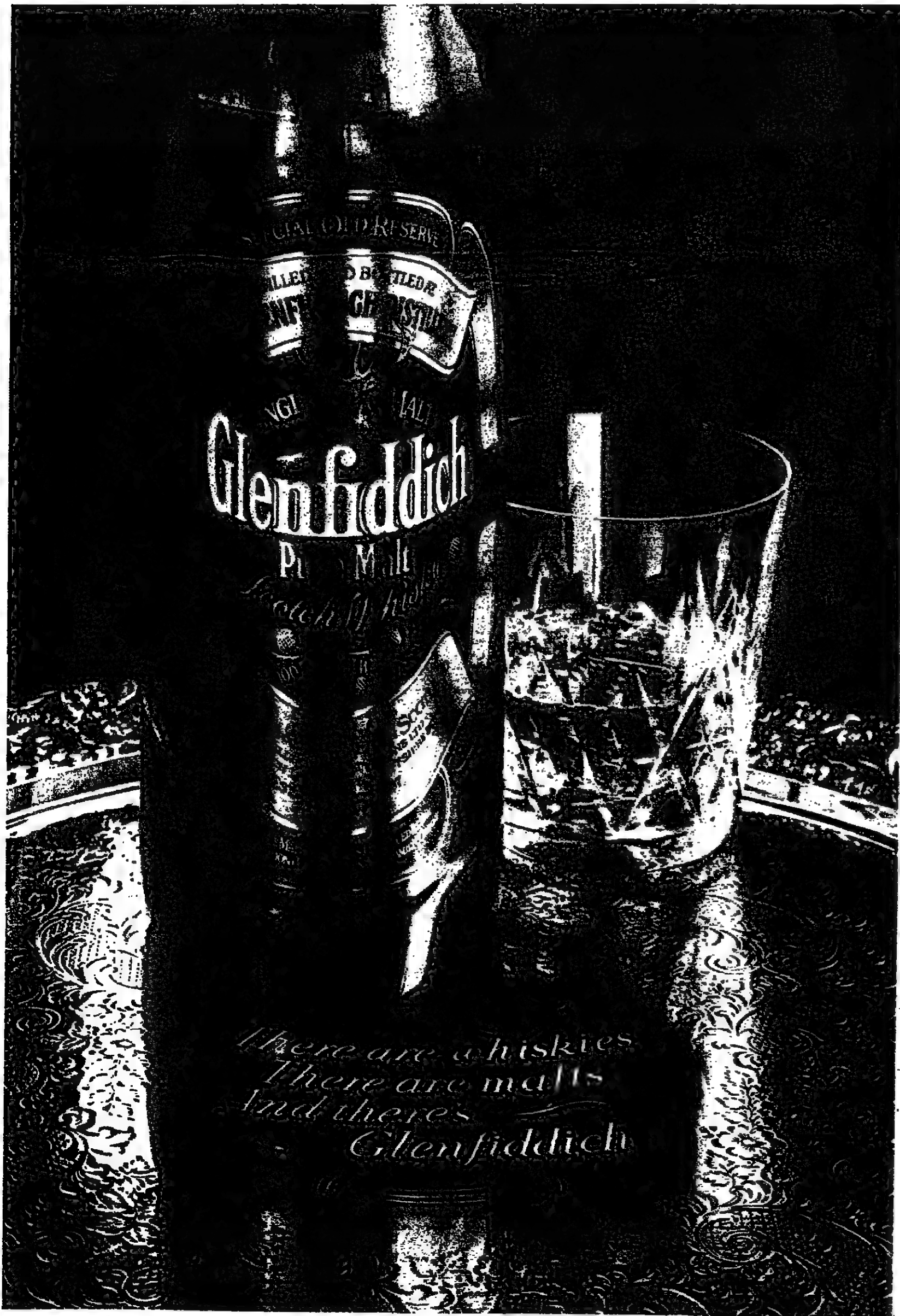
● **LONDON AMERICAN ENERGY:** Board of London American Energy Investments has decided to recommend to shareholders that the company be placed into voluntary liquidation. Board will be writing to shareholders shortly to explain reasons.

● **STEINBERG GROUP** has exchanged a conditional contract with partners in Touche Ross and Co, the receivers of Hornsea Pottery, to acquire the Hornsea business for £1.5m and to act as agents for the disposal of specific stocks.

● **BRIGHTON HOTEL DEAL:** A syndicate of four Business Expansion Funds led by Charterhouse J Rothschild, together with ICFC, has invested £3m in a new company, Norfolk Resort Hotel, formed to acquire and develop the Norfolk Continental Hotel, Brighton. The Business Expansion Funds of Charterhouse, Lazards, County Bank and Stewart have acquired 46 per cent of the new company's equity on behalf of their investors. The existing management retains 54 per cent.

● **BRITISH LAND** has completed its £1.4m Blackpool development carried out with Commercial Union. It has been let to J. Hepworth and Son and Fabriclen at a combined rental of about £70,000 a year. The investment has been purchased by Commercial Union.

● **GISBURNE OFFER:** Banque Paribas, Henderson Crosthwaite and Coleridge Group announce on behalf of the directors of Gisburne Park that applications for 1.25 million ordinary shares offered for subscription have been received and accepted in full.



There are whiskies
There are malts
And there's
Glenfiddich

TEAMWORK IN DEVELOPMENT WORLDWIDE

Shares marked lower

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Godfrey Davis europcar

[illegible]

from England... should be played... press his case... and for the... he said... out the... he felt... could have... it be accepted... at have... Andrew... bowler... and... will... at... four... join... weeks... to college...

DRUGS IN SPORT

Experts try to beat the cheats

London (Reuters) - Hormones extracted from the urine of pregnant women and the pituitary glands of human corpses are among the latest drugs used by athletes in the hope of improving their performance.

As sports authorities have moved to control and ban the use of anabolic steroids and testosterone, both widely used as performance-enhancing drugs, so athletes have looked for alternatives. According to Professor Arnold Beckett, of London University, a leading expert in this field, they have chosen two drugs in particular. Human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) and a growth hormone, known as Somatotropin or STH.

Neither has yet been banned by international sports authorities, but Professor Beckett says that research into their effects and their detection is underway.

Of the two drugs, most media attention has so far been concentrated on Somatotropin. Taken from the pituitary glands of human corpses, it is normally prescribed by doctors to children suffering from dwarfism, or growth deficiency. Athletes injecting the drug claim it increases muscle bulk and strengthens bones.

HCG, derived from the urine of pregnant women, is used with the aim of stimulating the natural production of the male hormone, testosterone. This, in turn, is said to produce better muscle development and to work on the central nervous system. It should make an athlete more aggressive and more competitive and allow him to train harder.

Testosterone will be a banned drug at this year's Olympics in Los Angeles. But doctors say HCG could produce the same effect on athletes indirectly, while avoiding the risk of disqualification.

Any move against the drugs by sports authorities necessarily requires the development of tests to detect when they have been used.

Both somatotropin and HCG present complex problems.

The drugs are detectable in blood plasma, but those drug-testing at athletic events are forced to work with urine samples, which complicates their job, particularly in the case of somatotropin.

But it is precisely this rapid absorption that has made some experts question whether either drug offers the athlete anything more than a catalogue of unpleasant side effects.

Professor Beckett was more cautious. Although surprised that somatotropin should be taken as a performance-booster at all, he was unwilling to write it off. "The difficulty is that you're talking about normal conditions. It's the same argument that is used to come for anabolic steroids. A lot of medical people said anabolic steroids would not do anything in sport, but they were talking about normal doses. They weren't talking about massive doses, and it has been demonstrated by results that anabolic steroids did produce advantages," he said.

Yet however inconclusive the scientific evidence, it appears many sportsmen, particularly in the United States, are using both drugs in the hope of improving their performance.

FOOTBALL: BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS AT THE BASEBALL GROUND

Taylor goes and McFarland takes charge

Peter Taylor agreed yesterday to resign as Derby County manager. Though he had two years of his contract left to run he agreed to accept nominal compensation in view of the club's financial frailty. Roy McFarland will take charge until the end of the season.

While Taylor has been trying to manage a football team faced with relegation a bigger battle for the club's very life has been going on behind the scenes.

Robert Maxwell is to sell his shares in Reading. The Oxford chairman and new Derby County landlord, became a major shareholder at Reading when he tried to merge the club with Oxford a year ago. He acquired 19 per cent of the shares - but his amalgamation plans eventually fell through.

Maxwell sells

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Glenn Hoddle yesterday turned to a top overseas specialist to help solve his nagging Achilles tendon trouble.

Tottenham's England midfielder flew to Helsinki for a fresh opinion on the problem that has plagued him for the past four months.

Peter Shreeves, Tottenham's assistant manager, said it would be a "wonder-achievement" if the specialist came up with an immediate answer. He said: "We hoped Glenn's Achilles tendon would have cured the problem, but as soon as he started training again it was apparent that it hadn't."

Glenn is contracted to the American shoe company Nike and they suggested sending him to Helsinki. Apparently the specialist has helped some of their other athletes, so it is worth trying for the cost of an air ticket.

Hoddle will see Tottenham's own specialist on his return from Finland tomorrow when a decision will be made on the next course of action.

"We will have to decide whether to put the foot in plaster, step up the cortisone treatment or carry out an exploration operation to see the exact extent of the damage," added Shreeves.

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Taylor: publicity too much for family

Huddle hobbles to Helsinki

It looks touch and go, however, whether Hoddle will be fit to tour South America with England in June - and it could also interfere with his prospects of joining a top club in the summer.

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RUGBY UNION

Students hand out a lesson to Rest

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

England Students.....14
The Rest.....10

With places going on the Under-23 tour to Spain next month and indeed on the senior tour to South Africa this game at Richmond yesterday lacked the anticipated quality. Though the Students were the more inventive of the two sides behind the scrum the Rest scored three tries, one converted to a try and two penalties.

It was the Students who posed the greater threat. Kidner regularly won lineout ball regardless of who threw in and their centres announced their presence in determined fashion. Twice they took the scrum to Campbell on the left wing but his second run ended with a corner in which he hurt an ankle and was replaced by George, of Nottingham University.

Nevertheless, Burnhill and Cockell worked a smart loop for Cockell to spring to the line. Unfortunately he spotted his wing and failed to touch down properly. It was doubly unfortunate for the Students when, from the drop-out, Bailey kicked ahead and George was caught in possession. George was wrenched the ball free on halfway. Tressler was in support and Curry, the tight head prop, doubtless to his singular surprise, found his way to the line clear of two metres for a try that Andrew would not convert.

The Students continued to dominate play but though their enterprise deserved their only reward before the interval came.

penalty efforts. Appleton gave his attention to joining his three quarters and enjoyed running forty metres for the last try.

There looked to be some genuine talent in the English back division and would be a pleasure to see Tombs, the Malvern-Hall stand-off, in a harder setting. Apart from scoring a try he sent Tomney, the right wing, on his way for two of the three tries.

SCORERS: England Students: T. Evans; Andrew; Appleton. The Rest: T. Bailey; George; Burnhill; Cockell. ENGLAND UNDER-23: 1. Dodson (Leicester); 2. Gosses (Macclesfield); 3. Smith (Macclesfield); 4. Smith (Cambridge University); 5. M. Bailey (Cambridge University); 6. R. Bailey (Cambridge University); 7. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 8. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 9. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 10. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 11. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 12. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 13. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 14. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 15. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 16. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 17. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 18. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 19. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 20. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 21. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 22. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 23. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 24. T. Bailey (Cambridge University); 25. T. 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Bright Oasis again looks an inviting prospect

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With Wing Velvet, Bright Oasis, Dennis Auburn and Lulav all standing their ground overnight the Old Wolverhampton Book Club Novices' Steeplechase had the makings of being the most interesting race at Ludlow today.

Wing Velvet has done well to win his last two races at Wincanton and Wolverhampton, especially the one at Wincanton where he was opposed by Cambril. But the conditions favoured him that day. Now I wonder whether he will manage to give 7 lb to Bright Oasis, who beat Sutton Prince and Missy Fort at Hereford on Saturday to win a valuable prize, sponsored by his owner Colonel Teddy Phillips's company.

No matter how Lulav fares his trainer David Nicholson and jockey Peter Scudamore should not leave the course disappointed, as the fancy chances of winning the R Wood Memorial Handicap Steeplechase with Lander Blue who will be meeting Uplam Pleasure on 9 lb better terms than when he was beaten six lengths by him at Wincanton last month. But for making a mistake at the last fence he would not have been beaten by so much that day.

Fillets Farm my selection for the Oakley Park Challenge Cup, could be the second of two winners for the Letcombe trainer Tim Forster, who is

hoping to win the Laughter Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Steeplechase at Wincanton with Latin American, who was ridden by Paul Croucher when he won a similar race at Chepstow in December. On that occasion Latin American beat Water Rock, who was in good form at the time.

With so many runners at the Somerset meeting, winners will not be easy to come by. Putting safety first I regard Tawny Myth as a good, if somewhat unorthodox, nap, to maintain his winning sequence in the Pat Ruthven and Guy Nixon Memorial Vase Novices Hunters' Chase.

Taking in point-to-points as well, Tawny Myth is now unbeaten in his last 13 races. His most recent success was at Devon and Exeter last Friday when he won in spite of the fact that his rider, Richard Cate, took things too easily towards the end as he mistakenly thought that there was another circuit to go. Mr Cate has already ridden Tawny Myth to win a similar race over today's course and distance so he is unlikely to make the same mistake again.

Finally, Deep Moppel will be suited by the distance of the Spring Handicap Hurdle judged on the way that she finished on the end of the race last night by Rose Ravine at Newbury last month.

Sangster buys Manton

Robert Sangster has agreed to purchase the historic Manton House estate near Marlborough from John Bloomfield for an undisclosed sum. The estate, which extends to over 2,000 acres of Wiltshire downland, includes 300 acres of gallopers over which many classic hunters have been trained during the last 100 years, including five Derby winners.

Mr Sangster, chairman of the Vernon Pools organization, sees the acquisition of the estate as not only a

further base for his racing and breeding activities but also as a significant property investment for his company.

It is understood that while on definite decisions have been reached with regard to whatcombs, which was recently acquired by Mr Sangster from Arthur Budgett, Michael Dickinson will commence trading at Manton in the autumn of 1985.



Alastor O Mavros, the grey, holds off Goldspun in the Keith Prowse Hurdle at Ascot (Photograph: George Selwyn)

Cracking day - for bookmakers

By John Karter

Clairvoyants apart, those who thought it financially safer to stick to National Hunt racing while Flat racing takes its time to settle down left Ascot yesterday with a lot of eggs on their faces and very little in their pockets. Apart from further thought, who justified market leadership in the hunters' race, no other favourite succeeded and in three of the races it would really have taken something akin to three of the races to have named the one who did.

Perhaps the most extraordinary result, even for those who steadily follow the old racing adage of backing the outsider in a three-horse race, came in the Golden Eagle Novices Chase, which looked on paper to be a match between Carved Out and Charter Party.

However, a certain six-year-old gelding named Just For The Crack had other ideas and so, as we learned afterwards, did his young trainer, Kim Bailey, who backed him at 1-1. Just For The Crack had always been highly thought of by Bailey and indeed although he described his horse yesterday as "an idiot" he also referred to him as potentially the best horse he has trained.

The problem has been that while Just For The Crack has looked

capable of accelerating past a Maserati at home (only last week he beat a useful Flat horse trained by James Bethell by 20 lengths in a gallop) when he arrives at the racecourse more often than not he contrives to squander that ability.

Mosly this has manifested itself just for the Crack setting off at a speed more appropriate to a quarter horse. However, Anthony Webber appears to have a certain empathy with this rather eccentric equine character. Webber had ridden him to victory at Southwell in December and after no less a man than John Francome and Sam Morsehead had failed on him subsequently, Webber was determined to put his best foot forward again yesterday.

It was all pretty plain sailing, too. Once Just For The Crack, jumping superbly if occasionally to the left, had taken the lead five fences from home and Charter Party had fallen when apparently Baron Price, at bay by the draw further and further away from the odds-on Carved Out to win at his leisure.

Francome, who was on Carved Out, had won the opening race on another much vaunted horse, Hazy Sunset. It was a piece of vintage Francome - a slow steady run from

right at the back of the pack to hit the front between the last two hurdles and win comfortably from The Catchpool and the favourite, Penny Bank.

Chasing will be Hazy Sunset's game next year and this fine son of Merlek is surely one to follow. "I'll be 10", Fred Winter joked. Or was it a case of many a true word.

Hazy Sunset was in fact the best-supported winner of the afternoon. Apart from Just For The Crack's success at 20-1, the bookmakers were rubbing their hands in the warm spring sunshine as Alastor O Mavros totally belied his recent form by holding off Goldspun in the Keith Prowse Hurdle. Tom's Lull (who may go for the French Grand National) made the hot favourite, Fifty Dollars More, look positively sluggish in the Peregrine Chase and finally Rushmore at 1-1, held the heavily backed rider when apparently Baron Price, at bay by the draw further and further away from the odds-on Carved Out to win at his leisure.

One interesting factor to arise out of Goldspun's narrow defeat was that this eternal runner-up, who David Nicholson, his trainer, insists is not ungentle, has now some 250,000 in place money. Not bad for a "quitter".

Naughton finds a bargain

Kingswick, a \$200,000 yearling whom Mick Naughton picked up for an untraced three-year-old for only 2,000 guineas, won the Famous Grouse Maiden stakes at Haydock yesterday on his Flat debut.

Pat Edders, Kingswick's rider, completed a double when Yellow Domino landed the odds laid on him very easily in the Johnny Osborne Handicap, he has ridden eight winners already this season. Edders struck the front on Kingswick fully five furlongs out and his mount held the sustained challenge of the favourite Tivan throughout the last quarter of a mile by half a length.

Naughton, who had run Kingswick only once before to finish third in a "bumpers" race at Catterick last month, explained that the colt was too big and backward to run as a two-year-old with Peter Walwyn and injured a stifle the following season. Kingswick is entered for the John Porter Stakes at Newbury a week on Saturday.

Willy Ryan also brought off a double at odds of 10-1 when scoring on Lak Lustre and Aqaba Prince.

EQUESTRIANISM

Powell at ease in the Army event

By Jenny MacArthur

Rodney Powell, who has moved from young riders' classes to adult competition with enviable ease, gave a fine display of horsemanship at yesterday's Army Horse Trials at Aldworth, sponsored by MacConal-Mason Thornycroft, to win two of the novice sections.

His first success came on Miss D. Kent's seven-year-old Caskin o' Rushall and the second on Miss D. Jenkins' Jacob's Lad. It was the third novice win for the 16-3-hand Caskin o' Rushall, who is for sale. The horse was formerly owned by Barry Wooley, of Rushall, Powell, who was 22 last Saturday, is based at the Talland School of Equestrianism in Gloucestershire.

Robert Lawrence, who was second at Brigstock last week on The Gamesmaster, performed another fearless cross-country produced on Miss S. Clement's Gotham Gemminis to win second novice. They completed the 20-fence course without incurring either jumping or time penalties.

Next week Lomieux competes at Badminton on the first time. Lawrence continued her successful season when she finished second to Lemieux on Gang Star, on which she won at Crockham last month.

RESULTS: Novice section 1, Caskin o' Rushall (R Powell, 42); Rushall Range (D Jones, 41); 3, Stearnsman (M Young, 22); 4, Gotham Gemminis (D Lawrence, 22); 5, Gang Star (R Longman, 39); 6, Alington Lad (R Peel, 39); 7, Caskin o' Rushall (A Grant, 39); 8, Rushall Range (D Jones, 39); 9, Stearnsman (M Young, 39); 10, Gotham Gemminis (D Lawrence, 39); 11, Gang Star (R Longman, 39); 12, Alington Lad (R Peel, 39); 13, Caskin o' Rushall (A Grant, 39); 14, Rushall Range (D Jones, 39); 15, Stearnsman (M Young, 39); 16, Gotham Gemminis (D Lawrence, 39); 17, Gang Star (R Longman, 39); 18, Alington Lad (R Peel, 39); 19, Caskin o' Rushall (A Grant, 39); 20, Rushall Range (D Jones, 39); 21, Stearnsman (M Young, 39); 22, Gotham Gemminis (D Lawrence, 39); 23, Gang Star (R Longman, 39); 24, Alington Lad (R Peel, 39); 25, Caskin o' Rushall (A Grant, 39); 26, Rushall Range (D Jones, 39); 27, Stearnsman (M Young, 39); 28, Gotham Gemminis (D Lawrence, 39); 29, Gang Star (R Longman, 39); 30, Alington Lad (R Peel, 39); 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GOLF

Faldo turns with a fresh swing to Greensboro

From Mitchell Plant, Greensboro, North Carolina

Nick Faldo moves into the Greater Greensboro Open on the Forest Oaks course here today with his confidence fully restored. He has adjusted his swing after a minor fault in scoring 69 in the final round of the Tournament Player's Championship last Sunday he proved the success of the adjustment.

Followers of Faldo's career worried about how he would handle the revelation that there was a new woman in his life. They feared that the publicity about his marital troubles might disturb his concentration. Faldo, however, has demonstrated his growing maturity. He missed the halfway cut in the Hawaiian Open during the week when his private life became public, but since then he has managed to maintain the momentum in his game.

The only problem troubling Faldo was a sudden impulse to "chop down" on the ball. It produced the kind of wayward shot uncharacteristic of his finely grooved game. It led to the inconsistency of having a 79 and a 67 in one tournament last month.

It was around this time last year that Faldo worked on a swing change with the American, Mark O'Meara, with the aim of opening his hands more at the takeaway and develop a flatter turn with more room to work. It worked. Faldo returned to Europe soon after and won three tournaments in succession.



Westward ho: Faldo sees America with new eyes

on the way to claiming the top position in the official money list.

Faldo knows that the next step in his career must be to win in the United States. Greensboro offers a fine opportunity since he emphasized his liking for the course by finishing sixth here last year. Peter Oosterhuis and Bernard Langer add to the

European flavour of the tournament.

Severiano Ballesteros has joined the likes of Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus in heading for Augusta to practice for the US Masters next week. Even with these absences, it will be far from easy to win in Greensboro, with Lanny Wadkins defending the title.

Charterhouse have a triple in mind

By Nicholas Keith

Sixty years have passed since the Halford Hewitt Cup was first contested by teams of the Public Schools Golfing Society. When the 5th competition begins today at Deal and Sandwich, Charterhouse will start as favourite.

They have 11 victories to their credit and are attempting their third win in a row; they were also beaten finalists in 1981. They play all their matches at Deal, where the final two days are staged on Saturday and Sunday, and they have a good draw with an opening match against Gresham's.

Watson's, the last team to beat Charterhouse, when they won three years ago, have fallen at the first

hurdle in the last two years. They drew in the same half of the draw as Charterhouse, and so are favourites to reach the semi-finals since 1971.

In the lower half of the draw there is a tough corner involving Malvern, Rossall, and Rugby. Rossall, who have appeared in three semi-finals in the last five years, have a hard time against their first round match against Tunbridge which takes place at Sandwich tomorrow.

Peter Ryde, who was golf correspondent of *The Times* from 1953 to 1981, is compiling a book on the Halford Hewitt for the

society and it is hoped that this will be published this autumn. He has run the results of every match through a computer which, not surprisingly, predicts a semi-final between Eton and Charterhouse at the top, and Harrow and Rugby with Charterhouse to beat Harrow in the final.

Rising star

Kc Li Peh, a 14-year-old Taiwanese, will be one of 141 golfers chasing a \$200,000 first prize in the Taiwan Open beginning in Taipei today. He is believed to be the youngest player to compete in a professional tournament.

SWIMMING

Darlington Olympic darlings

By Athol Sdill

Competition for places in Britain's swimming team for the Los Angeles Olympics starts in earnest tomorrow at the Arena national short course championships at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington.

The four-day competition is an important opener for world class stars like Adrian Moorhouse, June Croft, and Anna Ogerby, and Sarah Hardcastle and Jackie Wilford.

For other meeting contenders the chance of competing in the Olympics is still swimming's most glittering prize and will inspire many records, personal best performances and close racing in Darlington's new 25 metre pool despite the fact that Olympic qualifying times will have to be recorded later in the season in Olympic size 50-metre courses.

With the notable exception of Moorhouse, who is likely to show world class in the breaststroke events, our top men are training and studying in the United States and Canada and are unlikely to compete in this country much before the Olympic trials at the end of May.

It means that most quality performances will come in the women's events with Croft going for five titles in the free-style events and the 200 metres individual medley. Although she looks unbeatable in the 100-metre and 200-metre free-style she faces strong challenges in the other events.

The consistently improving 14-year-old Sarah Hardcastle is her main rival in the 400 and 800 metres free-style along with Annabelle Cripps.

RACKETS

Generalship of Harrow too good for Wellington

By William Stephens

David Dick and Stephen Segrave gave Harrow victory in the Public Schools doubles championship at Queen's Club yesterday when they defeated David Mallinson and Anthony Condon of Wellington, 15-8, 15-0, 5-15, 15-10, 15-12.

Decisive factors were Dick's leadership in the rallies in which he played forward in attacking style and out-generated the Wellington first string, Mallinson, and the Harrovians' service; Dick served with aggression and the left-handed Segrave with precision. Harrow stormed to a 2-0 lead but Wellington after two 7-game matches were no strangers of wars of attrition.

They mounted a counter-offensive serving to 7-0 and won the third game. The fourth game was tight, Wellington gaining service at 11-10 up but each server was put out immediately. Segrave served through the game and until 10-0 in the fifth.

Harrow last won the championship in 1979, and this is the first success for the partnership of Roger Crosby and his son Martin, the school professionals. In 1951 Roger Crosby teamed up with his father Fred, who had been the professional since 1922. Wellington's fine run is a reward for Shannon Hazell, their professional who is leaving for the New York Racquet Club in September.

Colum Crichton-Stuart and Michael Smythe-Osbourne of Eton won the Second Pairs Cup, defeating Nicholas Shaw and Matthew Smallwood, of Tonbridge, by 15-6, 15-11, 15-11, 15-15. Tonbridge were jaded after reaching the semi-finals.

ST JAMES'S £9,500

Expand your business with the most successful and profitable way of expanding your business.

You will provide secretarial assistance to one of our senior executives on a part-time basis. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and will be expected to develop and maintain a high standard of efficiency and accuracy in all work.

This is an exceptionally friendly and professional company for successful candidates at least four years' secretarial experience.

Age 24-32 Salary £9,500

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PERSONNEL/PURCHASING/ADMIN

We are seeking to appoint a mature person with direct experience in senior personnel and office services to help administer our office of 40 staff. The successful applicant must be prepared to perform clerical duties as an integral part of evaluating and controlling company costs.

Responsibilities will include the day to day administration of remuneration packages of managers and staff etc, incorporating bonus plans, ex-patriate staff located in London, employee share option schemes, motor vehicles together with purchase ordering and processing for payment by the Accounts Department. Other responsibilities include building services, co-ordinating travel arrangements, recruiting.

This position requires a person of vitality, initiative and commercial awareness.

Salary £8,500, LVs and other benefits.

Please send CV's marked confidential to P J Coleman, Financial Controller, Scientific Software Intercomp, St Alban's House, 59 Haymarket, London SW1.

Marata Eric Electronics (UK) Limited

PA/SECRETARY to the Director

Are you a self-motivated Secretary seeking a challenge? We require an experienced and responsible person (male or female) to organise Director of UK Sales/Marketing Office of world's largest ceramic electronic component manufacturer. Additional Company responsibilities are wide-ranging, including:

- Personnel
- Financial
- Legal
- Plus opportunities for Market Research

Person should possess:

- Short-handled 80 WPM/RSB II
- German Language an advantage
- Reliable Memory/Speed of Handwriting essential
- Computer/Word Processing experience an asset

The rewards are:

- Salary circa £2K
- 4 Weeks Paid Holiday
- BUPA Insurance
- Very good company atmosphere
- Excellent opportunity to obtain very broad spectrum of commercial experience

For further details and to arrange an interview please contact: Mrs L. Ives (02514 Fleet) 3020/28585

INTERESTED IN PROPERTY?

S.W.1 PROPERTY COMPANY

Young M.D. Estate P.A. Sales, must have modern car, excellent skills (12/80/4), immediate presentation and a sense of humour. 25/20 years. Salary £12,000

S.W.7 PROPERTY CO/ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Plummet offices and varied job content (10/80/0), 24/30 years. Salary £12,000/15,000

W.1 ESTATE AGENTS

Partner's See for young office (10/80/0) Salary £7,000/8,000

TEMPORARIES

We have bookings for offices with Oxford St and Regent St. 63 experience

Ring Sally Owens or Heather Myers on 236 8427, 4 Port Street, S.W.1

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WP CONSULTANTS

WORD PERFECT is a small WP Consultancy involved in supplying a wide range of services to a rapidly expanding customer base.

We are currently increasing the size of our team and are subsequently seeking to recruit the right people to be closely involved with training and consultancy services offered to our clients.

We will expect applicants to have at least 2 years WP experience and a supervisory training or consultancy background would be considered a real advantage. Initiative and ability to communicate effectively are essential.

Public Appointments

DIRECTOR

INLAND REVENUE STAFF FEDERATION

Applications are invited for a

NEW SENIOR POST -
EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND CAMPAIGNING
OFFICER

Salary scale £11,329 - £17,906 inclusive of London Weighting.

6 weeks leave: non-contributory superannuation.

Whoever is appointed will have the experience and qualifications to analyse in detail education and training needs of officers at each level in the union; to define precisely the purpose of elements of training; and to run IRSF programmes, but not to be a "travelling teacher".

The campaigning role flows naturally from this.

For further details:
Mrs Kelly - 01-834 8254.

Detailed applications (5 typed copies please) by 27 April to:

Tony Christopher,
General Secretary,
Inland Revenue Staff Federation,
Douglas Houghton House,
231 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London SW1V 1EH.

Chief Executive

Salary Scale: £23,880-£25,149 p.a. (plus fees)

Arising from the retirement on 1st October 1984 of the present postholder, the Borough Council invites applications for the above post.

The Chief Executive is the head of the Borough Council's paid service and the principal adviser on policy to the elected Members through the Committee system.

The duties of the post include responsibility for a small department including the Borough Council's Health and Safety Work Study and M.S.C. schemes, but is free of management of a major department.

The appointment is subject to the terms and conditions of the J.N.C. for Chief Executives.

Applicants, male or female, should be professionally qualified, must be capable of providing strong leadership, be able to demonstrate a record of outstanding management performance, and have the ability to develop the policies of the Council.

In addition to the stated salary the post carries a lump sum car allowance and assistance with relocation expenses will also be given.

Employment creation is the first priority of the Council. Further details and application forms can be obtained by writing to the Personnel Officer, Kettering Borough Council, Municipal Office, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16 9QX, or by telephoning (0534) 58211.

Closing date: 28th April 1984.

Kettering

BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECTOR

Applications are invited for the vacant post of

Rector, the Principal of an institution directly

descended from the original Polytechnic and now a

broadly-based and diversified organisation at the

forefront of academic, professional and continuing

education and research, with emphasis on serving

the needs of industry and commerce. Academic

attainments and wide interests are important but the

successful candidate must also show evidence of

successful management experience and a capacity for

imaginative leadership.

The salary is £29,550 per annum inclusive of

London Allowance (under review with effect from

1.4.1984). For further particulars write to the

Personnel Officer, P.C.I., 308 Regent Street, London

W1R 8AL. Applications should be submitted to the

Chairman of the Court of Governors by 30 April

1984.

The Polytechnic of Central London

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Department

CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICER

Principal Officer: £12,408-£13,725 p.a.

This post is an important and challenging one. It carries a

major responsibility for the administration of the Education

Department and services provided centrally for schools,

colleges and other education institutions; with particular

reference to financial planning and control, and the use of

new technology.

Applicants must be well qualified with a university degree,

DMA or a appropriate professional qualification particularly

in accountancy or business studies, and should be

able to demonstrate successful administrative experience at a

high level. Removal expenses and disturbance allowance

payable in approved cases.

Application form and further details from The Chief Education

Officer (ST/KES), County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 5JL, quoting ref: E.34.11A, tel: Trowbridge

(02214) 3641, ext 2454. Returnable by 16th April, 1984.

HIGHLAND COLLEGE OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY

SENIOR MIDWIFERY TUTOR

(Ref. C/732)

A Senior Midwifery Tutor (NMC/SCN, DCN, MTT) will be required on

July 1, 1984, due to retirement of the present holder.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of

trainee midwives and will be required to deliver lectures and

practical sessions. The post is a full-time position with a salary

scale of £11,329 - £17,906 p.a. (plus London weighting). The

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General Appointments

The Royal Institution
of Chartered Surveyorsrequires a
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
Land Agency and Agriculture

The RICS has a membership of 71,000, organised in seven Divisions representing their professional interests, one of which is land agency and agriculture.

The Divisional Secretary is responsible for advising on policy and for the efficient administration of the Division and the work of its Council, Committees and Working Parties. Other duties include liaison with public bodies and private organisations connected with agriculture, forestry and other rural activities. A job specification is available on request.

Applications are invited from graduates, preferably in a discipline relevant to the work of the Division, or persons with other relevant qualifications. Experience of administration at a senior level will be an advantage. Preferred age 35-45.

SALARY RANGE £14,000 - £16,000 pa

The person appointed will be expected to join the staff in October 1984, with a view to taking over the post when the present incumbent retires in December. Closing date for applications - 17 April 1984.

Applications with C.V. (and daytime telephone number) to The Personnel Officer, R.I.C.S., 12 Cecil Grove Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD. Telephone: 01 272 7000 (ext. 212)

ENGINEERING COORDINATOR
WEST LONDON STUDIO

The job entails liaison between Management and Production Staff with the objective of expanding our studio's international clientele, and keeping the technical facilities at a state of the art level.

The company is one of London's leading sound recording operations.

The successful candidate will be technically qualified to degree standard with at least 5 years senior management experience. The applicant must be fluent in English and Swedish.

Please apply in writing with a detailed C.V. to:-

MISS A. L. PETERSSON
Marcus Music UK Ltd.
49-53 Kensington Garden Square
London, W2 4BA.**ARABIC****Publications Controller**

TEK are the world leader in producing Arabic Publications. Our clients? Over 400 major international publishers and exporters, in the UK and the USA.

Now we are looking for a highly professional controller, age 30-35. Salary up to £15,000 pa. Knowledge of Arabic an advantage. Publications production knowledge essential, copy preparation, design, typesetting, and/or print control. This is a progressive position.

Applications with C.V. please to: Ali Sharif,

TEK International Ltd

11 Uxbridge Road, London, W12. 01-749 3211

The Times guide to career development

Sharing profits with employees

Share option schemes have become the subject of much attention since the Budget emphasized the advantages to both employee and employer. But even before this encouragement, the number of schemes was increasing - mostly in the larger companies (for example, in more than half of those with a minimum turnover of £100m), although there is plenty of scope for smaller companies to benefit from such arrangements.

Approved schemes are governed by the usual Inland Revenue tangle of regulation and Stock Exchange requirements, coinciding and overlapping the guidelines set down by the investment protection committees (IPCs), which, though not legally enforceable would be folly to ignore. It would be more than awkward if institutional shareholders voted as a matter of principle against a scheme.

In the case of senior executive share option schemes, the IPCs specify that the subscription price should include no discount. They also seek to limit senior executive options to 5 per cent of issued equity capital over a 10 year period.

New Inland Revenue rules fix the maximum at £100,000 - or four times salary, whichever is greater. The new concessions allow any profit made on selling shares granted after April 6 to be taxed as capital gains.

In his speech the Chancellor said he was "convinced that we need to do more to attract top-calibre company management." He sees the executive share option scheme as an effective method of linking rewards to performance.

In the case of very senior executives he is right. Here share options double well as straight incentive schemes, because in these cases criteria for performance appraisal would be measured anyway by

Clare Raffael assesses
options for company
staff cooperation

company profits and share price movements. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that all these factors do not necessarily shift in parallel. Nigel Lawson's concern is also well-based. Britain, still low in the European salary league table, is a virtual bargain basement of managerial skill for other countries. Such forms of compensation go some way to redressing the balance.

The alternative, the savings-related share option scheme available to all employees, also received a boost in the Budget. SAYE related plans are the fastest-growing of the share-based plans. Most plans are fairly uniform in design because of the rigorous inspection by the Inland Revenue's technical division. In essence they operate as ordinary monthly savings plans (the tax-free monthly contribution will be doubled to £100), with the possibility of buying company shares after a minimum of five years at a price fixed when the option was originally granted, at least 90 per cent of middle-market rate, both a statutory and an IPC regulation. If this is not attractive the employee may simply withdraw his or her savings, usually augmented by a bonus.

This is a simplified explanation; the concept and administration of SAYE-linked option plans is sometimes difficult to explain.

There is a third category of share-based plan, not affected by this year's Budget: the all-employee, profit-sharing scheme. A revenue-approved

scheme of this kind involves a trust being set up to buy shares on behalf of qualifying employees. The IPC's guidelines specify a maximum limit of 5 per cent on allocated profits per annum but many companies set lower limits. There are many methods of defining and distributing profits. These should be tailored to the individual needs and objectives of the corporation.

The all-employee, profit-sharing scheme must be well-communicated to participants. In the latter case, though, problems are minimized by the fact that no contribution is required: the monetary gain is seen as an "extra payment" and therefore the scheme largely sells itself. The employee is, however, liable to income tax on varying proportions of the original "locked-in" value, depending on how long the shares have been held by the trustees. None is due after seven years, when they must be passed on to the employee.

All three types of scheme are worth considering. Many schemes are relatively new and so far no very conclusive research has been carried out but indications are that they can be in the best interests of all concerned. At the least, from an employee relations point of view, they are valuable. They can provide a reward for long-service employees, encourage identification with shareholders' objectives, provide a chance for employees to acquire capital, and lastly cynically, they take advantage of tax concessions. In the United States, stock option plans have been increasing in popularity in spite of a 1980 approach by Congress. Over here the last Budget continues a consistent Government approach which such schemes may be introduced.

NEWSROUND

● The differences in prosperity and outlook between the wealth of the South and the recession-hit North affect the professional as well as the factory worker. A survey published last month in *Accounting Personnel* shows that accountants from one region face many difficulties in moving. Although the demand for accountants is steadily improving, the situation is patchy. The North and Midlands offer lower salaries and higher unemployment, and the main problem is the cost of housing, which usually proves an insuperable obstacle for moves from North to South, even bearing in mind the higher salary.

Employers are therefore reluctant to consider candidates from outside their own areas. As the demand for accountants generally improves, some employers are prepared to take considerable trouble to retain the services of employees thinking of resigning. The survey also emphasizes that the overpayment of accountants in the public sector in relation to

equivalent jobs in the private sector continues. *Salaries in Accountancy* is published twice yearly by *Accountancy Personnel*, 63/65 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BH.● *Godfrey Golden writes:* The Polytechnic of the South Bank is planning to correct the criticism that academic research, even in the technical and scientific sphere, can be short in practical application, by building the South Bank Techno Park at the Elephant and Castle, with £4.5m from the Prudential Insurance group, the first venture of its kind in Britain.

This will provide quality spaces at reasonable rentals on a monthly basis to give new high-tech companies a chance to launch themselves in a central location without getting swamped in overheads. They will have access to both the Poly's scientific expertise, and the financial muscle of the City. Tenants will be drawn mainly from universities and polytechnics. The architects, Moxley Jenner

and Partners hope to complete the building within 18 months.

● Ian Mitchell-Lambert, headmaster at Highbury Grange School in Erit, Kent, was so concerned at the numbers of out of work parents that he has set up Job Generation Ltd, a community scheme in cooperation with the Manpower Services Commission now employing 160 mostly long-term unemployed people who work to provide jobs for others like themselves. It also offers training to find jobs, runs a free newspaper, "ridging up" the local yacht club and has two schemes to help disabled people. Called CHAPS (Community Help for Non-Able People), the schemes centre on garden and house maintenance for the elderly, disabled, low income groups and single parents.

Payments for full-time workers is at the local authority rate for the job. For 24 hours a week it is £50 to £60 gross. Anyone interested should phone Trevor Jones (gardens) or Lawrence Pestell (houses) on 01-301 4276.

General Appointments

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Women go back to Greenham camps

Continued from page 1

shelters before the bailiffs moved in.

In a clearing on common land owned by Newbury District Council, to the right of the Department of Transport land which was being evicted, women continued to make tea and cook breakfast. Some set fire to their "benders", setting off minor explosions of aerosol cans left inside.

The arrests came as women refused to move off the verge and slip road leading to the main gate, or did not walk quickly enough when asked. Some women complained that they were arrested when they were carrying out police orders to move.

Once the site outside the main gate had been cleared, the police formed a cordon to prevent women returning while a temporary fence was put up to delineate the road works area. The women gathered on land facing the main gate to light a fire, sing and play music.

Throughout the morning supporters arrived with equipment to help them start again. They included two local residents, Mrs Peg Ridge said: "These women have been our lifeline to sanity." Mrs Lynette Edwell objected to the police refusing her right as a Newbury ratepayer to walk "on my common land".

The peace women have sought legal advice and are convinced that while their shelters can be removed, they cannot themselves be prevented from sleeping on common land.

Mr Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, visited the women with Mr Bob Clay, Labour MP for Sunderland North. He said that he had agreed to come to Greenham before he knew about the eviction, and was there to listen to what was being said.

Pointing to the ranks of police guarding the road, Mr Benn said: "It connects directly with what is happening in the mining areas. We are now seeing police action on such a scale that people can't move about the country."

A group set up a few weeks ago to campaign for the removal of the peace camps was "delighted" by the eviction.

"But what we want is the total removal of the women from the common permanently," Mr John Leary, a Newbury shopkeeper and spokesman for Ratepayers against the Greenham encampments, said.



Mr Nicholas Blandy (above). Under Sheriff of Berkshire, yesterday surveying the remains of the main peace camp at Greenham Common, which was cleared (below) by bailiffs and police. Some women set their makeshift shelters on fire as a protest.



Mondale faces a fight all the way for nomination

Continued from page 1

Mr Mondale's best hope is that another big win in Pennsylvania will slow Senator Hart's momentum to such an extent that voters who are at present leaning towards the Colorado Senator in these races will realize he is a lost cause and either back the former vice-president or not vote at all.

As for Senator Hart, it must

now be clear that he has no hope of winning the nomination before the convention. His best tactic must be to build up as large a delegate total as he can and then try to win over the large number of uncommitted delegates and supporters of the Rev Jesse Jackson at the convention itself.

This means the San Francisco convention could turn into a

huge horse-trading session, in which the nomination would be up for grabs by either of the two front-runners or even conceivably by a compromise candidate who could be drafted by delegates who are neither happy with Mr Mondale nor Senator Hart.

The name of Senator Edward Kennedy has repeatedly been mentioned, although last week

he insisted that he would not be drafted for either the presidency or the vice-presidency.

The convention proceedings could be further complicated by the fact that under new party rules none of the delegates will be formally bound to vote for their original presidential preference on the first convention ballot, Mondale on target, page 15

Left allege plot over pit debate

Continued from page 1

try and the police that cannot long be delayed.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, again raised the prospect of coal mining being eventually denationalized.

He said at a press gallery lunch in the Commons that there would have been no mining dispute now if the industry had been denationalized 10 or 20 years ago.

He said: "I fancy there would have been cheaper coal, cheaper power and better paid miners with a more efficient economy. It is a thought for the future."

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, invited Labour MPs at a party meeting to supply him with examples of police violence on the picket lines. Some of them have accused the police of violence.

Mr Kaufman said he would pass on the complaints to the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, whom he will meet on Saturday.

Rail blacking, page 2

Wanderlust spirit of 26m Germans

If you come across pioneer tourists in the darkest corners of Africa, on the shores of remote islands, or in fully equipped mobile homes halfway up a mountain, they are likely to be Germans. For Germans are the world's greatest globe-trotters, and many a fashionable resort owes its existence almost entirely to the Teutonic wanderlust.

Last year more than 26 million German tourists set off on holiday, with 16 million going abroad - a higher proportion than anywhere else in the world. If you exclude such quirkas as Monaco and Kuwait, the summer holiday abroad is as sacrosanct as the car and one of the last things to be sacrificed, even in straitened times. Though in 1983 the amount of money German tourists spent abroad fell - by 2.6 per cent - for the first time since 1962, it still remained a formidable amount: DM 38,400m (£10,130m).

Where do they go? Principally, of course, south to the sun, to Italy, Austria, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia, where the natives will now naturally write their menus in German and wish you "Guten Morgen" unless corrected. Favorite destinations are unchanged, with Italy coming first in absolute terms (Germans accounting for 43 per cent of all tourists) and Austria the runner-up (where Germans make up 70 per cent of tourists).

The British still have the lead in Spain, Portugal and Greece, but the Germans are the biggest group in Turkey, Yugoslavia and Switzerland. There are changes from year to year, depending on fashion, the strength of the ever-welcome Mark and the weather. Last year's heatwave seemed to make the prospect of a trip northwards less daunting, and Britain, Holland and Denmark attracted more Germans than the year before.

But Eastern Europe - excluding, of course, East Germany - paid the price for its poor facilities and disorganization: the pioneers have moved on to the new "in" places in Africa and Asia, and the pensioners have been put off by horror stories of low-cost holidays in Romania and Bulgaria.

Germans are remarkably

independent holidaymakers. Most travel by car and 70 per cent set off on their own, making their own arrangements - though the tendency to congregate in established colonies in Europe's camping sites suggests the preponderance of a clean and tidy environment, is not altogether conquered.

But the travel industry is still a very big business in Germany. Newspapers regularly run fat travel supplements, and the big chain stores watch every fluctuation in the holiday market with close attention, as it makes a difference of several million marks to their turnover.

Today's version of the German hiking instinct is responsible for the vast acreage of canvas villas, the ever more sophisticated palaces on wheels with their "D" plates, that adorn Europe's camping sites.

On the whole, Germans do not stint themselves when abroad. The average holiday-maker spent 18.2 days abroad, cashing DM 71.80 a day. Most money, statistically speaking, is spent by German visitors to Scandinavia, who tend to be young, single and female. Those going to Yugoslavia, by contrast, are mostly young and male; those to Denmark families or groups; and those to Austria older, regular visitors.

For those who stay at home, Bavaria is the biggest draw. But the rest of Germany, a country much under-rated both by its own citizens and foreigners, is equally striking and worth visiting. Those foreigners who do so far fewer than the number of Germans going abroad - are mainly the Dutch, constituting 21 per cent of Germany's visitors.

Russian nobility no longer go to Baden-Baden, and perhaps today's equivalent, where the smart and the chic gather to see each other and be seen, is the long, thin island of Sylt, off the Danish coast. It is only on the beaches here that Germany still has an intellectual centre, where you will find the stars of screen and stage in a state of mental and physical undress, while the bulk of their compatriots are revealing all flesh to the sun 1,000 miles farther south.

Michael Binyon

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opens the Leukemia Research Laboratories at University College Hospital, 3.45.
The Princess of Wales visits the Burslem Factory of Royal Doulton Tableware Ltd at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, 12.10.
Princess Margaret undertakes engagements in Canvey Island, Essex, arrives 12.45.
The Duke of Kent, president of the All England Lawn Tennis and

Croquet Club, attends the club dinner at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, SW1, 7.50.

New Exhibitions

Action Portraits, photographs by Scottish newspaper photographers, Collins Gallery, Univ of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4, closed Sun (until April 26).
Paintings and drawings by Anne Carlisle, Arts Council Gallery, Bedford St, Belfast, Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (until April 28).
75 Years of Ornithology in Wales, National Museum of Wales,

Cathays Park, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until April 8).

Exhibitions in progress

Highlands and Islands - recent works by Jim Nicholson, Gladstone's Lane Gallery, Leamington, Edinburg, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2 to 4.30 (until April 22).
Drawing and Sculpture - Gaudier-Brzeska, Mercury Gallery, 23 North Bank St, The Mount, Edinburg, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (until April 28).
Drawings and prints by Rembrandt and Seurat, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mount, Edinburg, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 29).

Treasures of the National Library, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburg, Mon to Fri 7.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun (until May 31).

Work on the folklore and folkways of the Western Isles, John L. Campbell, Margaret Fay Shaw and Frances Collinson, National Library of Scotland, The Mount, Edinburg, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun (until May 31).

Work, People, Music, works by Dominic Snyder and Simon Burder and Mary Louise Colours, Glasgow Print Studio Centre, 128 Ingram St, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 6, Sat 10.30 to 4, closed Sun (until May 30).

Glasgow School of Art, Design '84, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 20).

Drawings by Blair Adams, Hunterian Art Gallery, Univ of Glasgow, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun (ends April 14).

Five from Saskatchewan organized by the Saskatchewan Art Board and the Canada House Cultural Centre, MacRobert Art Centre Gallery, Univ of Stirling, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 29).

Scottish Pottery, an exhibition of 19th and 20th century pottery from a number of well-known Scottish potters, Baird Institute Museum, Lugar St, Carmichael, Strathclyde, Tues to Fri 1.30 to 4, Sat 10.30 to 12, closed Sun (until April 14).

Music
Concert by Ulster Orchestra, Guildhall, Londonderry.
Concert by South Yorkshire Male Voice Choir and Band, Sheffield Cathedral, Church St, 7.30.
Concert by BBC Symphony Orchestra, The Huxton, Queens Walk, Reading, 7.30.

General
The British International Antiques Fair, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 11 to 9 Mon to Sat, 10 to 6 Sun (until April 11).

Parliament today
Continues (2.30) London Regional Transport Bill, further progress on report stage.
Lords (3): Housing and Building Control Bill, third reading. Debate on fixed date for Easter.

Bond winner
The winning number of this month's £250,000 Premium Bond prize is 848 861049. The winner lives on the Isle of Man.

New books - paperback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Withered Man, by James Thurman (Penguin, £2.95).
America's Children, a novel, by James Thurman (Corgi, £2.95).
Men of Straw, by Heinrich Mann (Penguin, £2.95).
Modern Short Stories to 1948, selected and introduced by John Hatfield (Dent, £1.95).
Frank, selected poems, translated from the Russian by Jon Stallworthy and Peter France (Penguin, £2.95).
Poetry of the Past, Studies in twelve centuries of English verse, by J. A. W. Bennett (Oxford, £2.50).
Selling Alone Around the World, by Joshua Slocum, introduction by Arthur Ransome (Century, £2.95).
Swann's Way, by Marcel Proust, translated by C. K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin (Penguin, £2.95).
The Bird of Paradise, by John Masefield (Century, £2.95).
The Redoubt March, by Joseph Roth, translated by Eva Tucker (Penguin, £2.95). PH

The papers

The Daily Mirror says that the Greenham women's peace camp was effectively destroyed by the bailiffs and police yesterday. But it remains the most famous protest in the world. We never accepted the women's case. But their sincerity and courage stood out. They were not sluts or hard-drugs as the Daily Express, for one, viciously described them. The paper concludes: "If people don't like what their government is doing they have a right to protest. The Greenham women used that right."

The Washington Post criticizes President Reagan's plan for a space-based defence against nuclear attack, saying that "if you believe in miracles, you may wish to consider supporting the President's five-year \$180 to \$270 research programme, otherwise, you will want to take it easy."

The Sun says Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, would love to see off the coalfields once the pit strike is over. Why not? After all, Mr Tebbit says, the strike would never have happened if the industry had been denationalized years ago. Of course, Labour and the NUM militants will scream that a State-owned coal industry is part of their holy writ. In fact, there is no reason why Britain's coal fields - in enterprising hands - should not make a bomb for the private company and the miner.

The taxpayer, too, would gain because there would be no need for any more of those huge subsidies. Best of all, Arthur Scargill would be written out of the script for ever.

The pound
Bank: Bank of England, 1.59, 1.51.
Australia \$, 27.59, 25.90.
Belgium Fr, 82.08, 78.80.
Canada \$, 1.88, 1.81.
Denmark Kr, 14.30, 13.60.
France Fr, 6.32, 7.32.
Germany DM, 11.86, 11.36.
Greece Dr, 160.00, 150.00.
Hong Kong \$, 11.52, 10.92.
Ireland Pt, 12.26, 12.20.
Italy Lira, 2385.00, 2285.00.
Japan Yen, 334.00, 318.00.
Netherlands Gld, 4.38, 4.16.
Norway Kr, 11.28, 10.68.
Portugal Esc, 195.00, 185.00.
Spain Ptas, 156, 152.
South Africa R, 218.00, 207.00.
Sweden Kr, 11.56, 10.98.
Switzerland Fr, 5.21, 5.14.
USA \$, 1.47, 1.42.
Yugoslavia Dnr, 183.00, 173.00.

Retail Price Index: 344.
London: The FT Index closed down 1.4 at 857.4.

Roads

Middlesex: M1: Junctions 16 (Northbound) and 78 (Southbound), contraflow A47 (Northbound) contraflow A47 (Southbound) delay A52 (Northbound) Guild St, Stafford, delay possible.

North: A69: Between Newton Bewley and Caxton Bank, Cleveland, improvement work. A636: Whitby, Clewley, Barnby, drainage reconstruction, single lane, temporary lights, also subsidence. A56: Walsby Rd in Sale, sewer work and single lane traffic diversions suggested.

Wales and West: M5: North bound access slip closed between Junctions 16 and 17, diversions operate via A38, Junction 16, hard shoulder and lane closed due to carriageway reconstruction, delays during the holiday period. A58 (Devon) A38 between Plymouth and Ivybridge, lane closures at Marsh Mills, A438 (Gloucester) secondary school to Oldfield, temporary lights, major resurfacing.

South: A74 (Lanarkshire) carriageway improvements at Bealstock, temporary northbound carriageway closed, two-way traffic on the southbound, M8 (Glasgow) barrier erection just west of junction 5, outside lanes closed on both carriageways. M74: Improvements to central reservation crossing, outside lanes closed both carriageways to the south side of junction 2. Information supplied by the AA.

Clan gathering

The Clan Gregor is Scotland's largest clan. It will be held between August 29 and September 3. Reservations must be made by the end of April. Details from the Gathering Office, Clan Gregor Society, 14 Lockhart Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 1AZ Scotland. Tel: (031) 443 4969.

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, author of *Leviathan*, Westport, Wiltshire, 1588; William, 1st Viscount Brouncker, first president of the Royal Society, London, 1604; Jean Honoré Fragonard, painter, Grasse, France, 1732; Joseph, 1st Baron Lister, surgeon and pioneer of antiseptics, Ulster, Essex, 1827; Algernon Charles Swinburne, London, 1837.

Deaths: George Dantons, guillotined, Paris, 1794; Robert Railton, founder of Sunday schools, Gloucester, 1811.

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure over W parts will move slowly E while weakening.

6am to midnight

London, SE, NW, can S, can N England, Midlands, Channel Islands, N Wales, Isle of Man: Dry, sunny intervals, wind variable light; max temp 6C (48F).
East Angles, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland: Fair, cloudy, a few showers, wind variable N light; or moderate; max temp 7C (45F).
SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain during night, rain in places, wind variable light becoming NW moderate; max temp 10C (50F).
SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Cloudy, rain in places, wind variable light becoming NW moderate; max temp 10C (50F).
Can Highlands, Mearns Firth, NE Scotland: Fair, cloudy, perhaps rain in places later, wind variable light; max temp 7C (45F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Dry with sunny intervals, rather cold at first becoming near normal, frost and fog patches overnight.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind N, light to moderate, sea smooth to choppy. S North Sea: Wind N, light to moderate, sea smooth to choppy. S North Sea: Wind N, light to moderate, sea smooth to choppy.

Sun rises: 6.27 am. Sun sets: 7.41 pm.
Moon rises: 11.01 am. Moon sets: 12.21 am tomorrow.

First Quarter: April 8.

Lighting-up time

London 8.11 pm to 8.35 am.
Bristol 8.21 pm to 8.59 am.
Edinburgh 8.20 pm to 8.50 am.
Manchester 8.21 pm to 8.50 am.
Penzance 8.21 pm to 8.50 am.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday in °C (and °F): London 14.1 (57.4), Bristol 14.1 (57.4), Manchester 14.1 (57.4), Edinburgh 14.1 (57.4), Glasgow 14.1 (57.4).

Highest and lowest

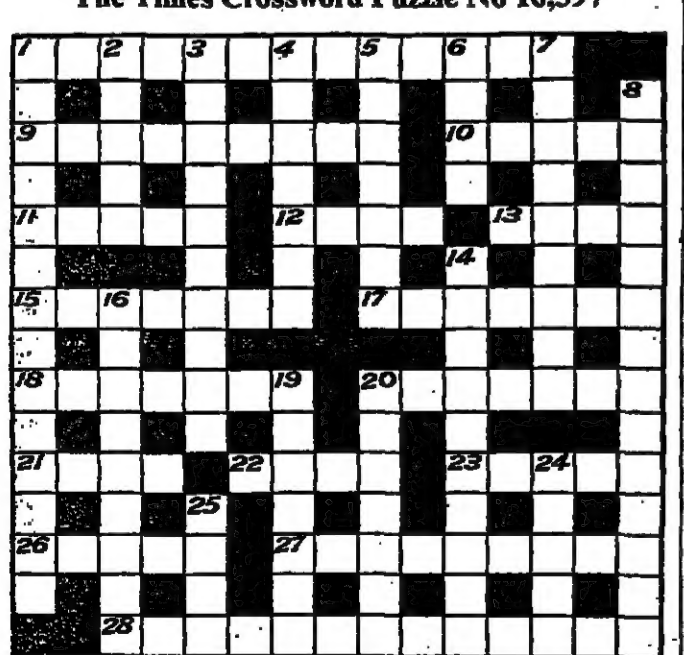
Yesterday's highest day temp: London 14.1 (57.4), Bristol 14.1 (57.4), Manchester 14.1 (57.4), Edinburgh 14.1 (57.4), Glasgow 14.1 (57.4).

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 5 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 5C (41F).
Sun: 6 am to 8 pm, 10.4C (50.7F).
Mon: 6 am to 8 pm, 10.4C (50.7F).
Tue: 6 am to 8 pm, 10.4C (50.7F).

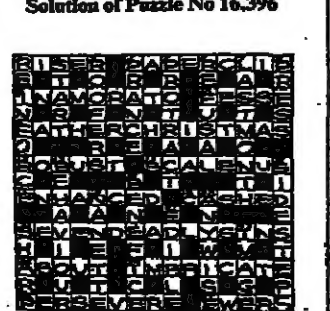
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,397



- ACROSS**
- 1 Reason d'être for 28 (6,4,3).
 - 9 Rambling tale of a grim eccentric character (9).
 - 10 Asian citizen's contribution to British industry (5).
 - 11 Controls extra-mural provision for London prisoners once (5).
 - 12 In game like bridge, an unsuitable small slam? (4).
 - 13 Flower show (4).
 - 14 Conservative conference mainly uncompromising (7).
 - 15 Lawrence paid to join in with one composer (7).
 - 16 He has to take care here in London (4,3).
 - 17 One serving Queen fish, apparently (7).
 - 18 Cunning needed in bridge (4).
 - 19 Sailor, you see, reported back to island (4).
 - 20 No befeater gave injury to remove 'tail' (5).
 - 21 Remove all traces of arsenic before swallowing it (5).
 - 22 It may depend on the landlord's latitude, however (5,4).
 - 23 Savant writing about "essence d'art", perhaps (4,9).
- DOWN**
- 1 Sheet with bulletin, so to speak? (7,5).
 - 2 Author turns fifty (5).
 - 3 Put in other words, or changed - see? (10).
 - 4 Point to fifth volume editor opened out (7).
 - 5 Ruth, for one, appears changed in general (7).
 - 6 Announcement of discovery in London (4).
 - 7 Art school's idiosyncrasy (9).
 - 8 Press backers taking special care? (8,6).
 - 14 Birmingham players needed, all full quartet not turning up (5,5).
 - 15 Support for one behind professional sinecure? (4,5).
 - 16 Increased - nothing less than odd, literally (7).
 - 17 Saint is not above a bit of money (7).
 - 18 Endless treachery - 18 wrongdoers remorse (5).
 - 19 Jack, though poor, wasn't without this (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,396



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10